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No. 2472

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'LA NACION' ENDORSES PROPOSED OIL PRICE DEREGULATION

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Mar 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Deregulation of the Petroleum Market"]

[Text] A myth has been created about the petroleum topic that has little to do with the reality of the subject. Not only in our country, for certain, but even in the United States, where many of the major companies in the industry are based. William Simon, who headed the Federal Energy Administration there, relates how the overlapping of regulations of different organizations made the import of petroleum rise in the United States from 10 percent to 30 percent in a few years, and subsequently it reached 50 percent of total consumption.

Something similar happened in our country. Two-thirds of the petroleum consumed in 1958 was imported, and self-sufficiency was practically attained in hardly 4 years as a result of the opening of our deposits to private enterprise. This goal faded in consequence of the cancelation of the contracts in 1963. A more liberal attitude again began to prevail in 1967 with the enactment of Law 17,319, which regulated the allocation of areas for petroleum exploration and exploitation. Government Oil Deposits (YPF) was granted a huge area of 376,000 square kilometers, but, as was the case with the concession tracts, this area would be gradually reduced.

The governments of the Process did not implement Law 17,319 and opted in practice to delegate petroleum policy to the YPF, which thus became a regulator and a competitor at the same time. "Judge and interested party," as the private concerns rightfully observe. The government thus signed contracts for works and services, as well as for concession and "risk," in accordance with Law 21,778. Whoever extracts petroleum or gas cannot dispose of it under any circumstances, but must deliver it to the YPF so long as the elusive self-sufficiency is not attained and the proven reserves are not deemed sufficient. An extremely vague definition, as can be observed.

The system has proved unsatisfactory. The concerns do not have enough incentive to explore and exploit under any of the established conditions. The concessionaires are vertically-integrated petroleum concerns in the true sense of the word, and, naturally, their business is not solely to extract petroleum and deliver it to a competitor like the YPF, but to refine, distribute and sell it as well.

For that reason, few companies have shown up at the auction of offshore areas. As to the works contracts, an open conflict of interests is noted between the deficit of the YPF and the profitability of the contractors at the time of setting prices or of updating them.

All this is complicated by a minutely regulated price system, in addition to a taxing system that arbitrarily stimulates consumption of certain fuels and makes importation preferable to production. For example, fuel oil rather than gas, which is much more abundant. In turn, the distribution of gas is monopolized by a state concern that could buy it from the YPF, but at a price that is not convenient for the producer, and that is why the YPF vents or flares a good portion of the gas it extracts in association with petroleum.

Meanwhile, State Gas must pay an unusually higher price for gas imported--for political reasons--from Bolivia. This enterprise, which does not view provincialization favorably, has begun a timid deprivation of bottled gas.

At present, petroleum production is decreasing. Be it because the price that the YPF gets for its products is not enough to enable it to adequately compensate the contractors, or because the enterprise is inefficient, or probably both, it has had to incur an enormous debt which in the portion arranged in foreign exchange alone exceeds \$5 billion, confirming the fact that the notion that the resources of the country are limitless is totally unfounded.

Neither does State Gas have sufficient assets to extend the natural gas home distribution lines, and for that reason the new Central West Gas Pipeline has a high rate of idle capacity and a fee must be paid to its builder for gas that is not being transported.

In these circumstances, at a time when it is essential to increase exports, the tempo of petroleum imports would necessarily tend to increase.

This state of crisis has been reached because of an excessive and niggling regulatory action and years of nationalizing government control. And it is obvious that the only way to overcome it is to eliminate those shackles, allowing the mechanism of price decontrol and the marketplace to operate. The draft bill that has been made known is aimed in that direction, which we believe to be the right one.

Contrary opinions could be held, for example, in relation to the scant participation afforded to the provinces where the deposits are located in the drafting of hydrocarbon policy or the collection and allocation of tax funds. Also, the auction system could be improved in anticipation of the asking for bids every time there are parties interested in the exploration and exploitation of tracts. It could be argued that the creation of a new entity is useless and costly because the Energy Secretariat will suffice. It could be believed, in short, that a period of 5 years in which the government will continue to set the prices of derivatives is excessive. But the main intent of the law is adequate, considering that it tends to facilitate the full utilization of the petroleum and gas resources. We are dealing, on the other hand, with the initiative that most closely approximates the stated aim of deregulating and denationalizing the economy that the government has come up with.

BRIEFS

NEW OILFIELDS--Quito, 16 Mar (OPECNA)--The Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, is accelerating exploitation of four new oilfields--Charapa, Secoya, Shuara, and Shushuqui--in the eastern part of the country. In addition to a normal drilling program, work is underway on production platforms, pumping stations and oil pipelines. [Text]
[PA161920 Vienna OPECNA in Spanish 1528 GMT 16 Mar 82]

CSO: 3010/1118

CARIBBEAN REACTION TO REAGAN'S CBI CONTINUES; ADAMS CITED

Seaga on Grenada Status

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Feb 82 p 1

[Excerpts] KINGSTON, Jamaica, Friday, (CANAL) — Jamaica will have no quarrel with the United States over the exclusion of Grenada — run by a leftist government — from the proposals announced by President Reagan on Wednesday to aid the development of Central American and Caribbean countries, the Jamaican Leader, Edward Seaga, indicated here today.

The exclusion of Grenada did not mean that it was eliminated from the overall programme, which is to include Canada, Mexico and Venezuela as donors in the initial stage, Mr. Seaga told reporters.

At a meeting here last September to discuss their reaction to the U.S. sponsored initiative which was then embryonic, CARICOM Foreign Ministers agreed that the plan should not be used as an ideological weapon and that no country should be excluded because of its philosophy.

The regional countries, who have been pulling together their priority developmental needs and planning mechanisms for the implementation of the programme with expectation of round-table negotiations between recipients and donors, are to deal with the Reagan announcement when they meet at the Foreign Ministers level in Belize next month.

Mr. Seaga told journalists here that his government had not yet discussed the Belmopan meeting, but implied clearly that there would be no protest from Jamaica.

Said he: "...We made it quite clear from the beginning that the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) was, as we saw it, a multilateral basket of bilateral programmes which meant that each country would put into it whatever they desired in terms of types of aid or the types of mechanisms, which would include trade and investments. And they would do so in relation to the countries with which they sought to have bilateral arrangements.

"The fact that a country has been omitted in the programme of one of the donor countries does not mean that it was omitted in terms of the overall treatment because they are other donor countries included..." he added.

Adams Critique

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Feb 82 p 12

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Fri., (AP)—PRIME MINISTER Tom Adams, whose island President Reagan is to visit in five weeks, said today that Reagan Caribbean initiative lacks the aid component needed in the Eastern Caribbean.

Adams was among Caribbean leaders who called last year for a plan to help their impoverished region similar to the U.S.-led Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II.

Detailed analysis of Reagan's plan for trade and investment incentives coupled with \$840 million in new aid funds will have to await its passage by the U.S. Congress, Adams said.

Those who will benefit (from the plan) will welcome it and those who will not will be critical, he said. U.S. officials have said most of the new aid funds will go to Central America, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

"I don't think the plan meets the need for overseas development assistance, but then I don't think it was designed to meet that need," Adams said in an interview with the Associated Press.

"I have no quarrel with the

emphasis on the private sector initiative," he said, adding that Barbados was well-placed to take advantage of anything that would make investment in the Caribbean more attractive to American investor.

The plan has to be seen within a political context as well as an economic one, he said. The political imperative in Central America is very important to the government of the United States and that is why the plan has been angled particularly toward Central America.

The Prime Minister voiced some concern that the only Eastern Caribbean nation that Reagan mentioned specifically when he announced the initiative this week to the Organisation of American States was Grenada, whose leftist government has come under harsh U.S. criticism for its close ties to Cuba.

The singling out of Grenada gives the impression that the United States sees only its enemy in the Eastern Caribbean, rather than its friends, Adams said.

Preparations are now being made for Reagan's early April visit to the island.

The Reagan trip has been described as a working vacation during which he is expected to meet with leaders from several Eastern Caribbean nations. He was invited by actress Claudette Colbert, who has a home on Barbados east coast.

Adams declined to comment on what might be expected to come out of the visit, other than to say his government would receive the U.S. President appropriately and that Reagan would be free to meet with whomever he chooses.

Well-informed sources said the guest list was still under discussion, but one person who definitely would not be invited was Maurice Bishop, leader of Grenada's Revolutionary Government.

Comments by Diplomats

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 26 Feb 82 p 1

[Excerpt]

WHILE declining to offer an overall assessment of the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI], Barbados' Ambassador to the United States and the Organisation of American States, Charlie Skeete, said he was not surprised at the decision of the Ronald Reagan administration to place emphasis on bilateral rather than multi-lateral arrangements.

Skeete said that all along he had got the impression that the United States had seen the Caribbean Basin Plan as a multi-lateral arrangement in the sense that it would involve many countries in the Caribbean and Central America, but it would be bilateral in application because it would be implemented with United States and individual countries in the Caribbean arriving at separate arrangements.

Skeete said there had been no unequivocal or unified Caribbean position to which the Reagan administration could have responded on any part of the initiative. He said various CARICOM members had expressed various positions on what the Caribbean Basin package should be like, who would qualify and how it should be oriented. Similarly there was no such Central American approach to the basin either.

While declining to call that decision a mistake, Skeete said:

"I'm a practical person, and the reality is that there was no unified position from the Caribbean on the question of specifics, to which the administration could have responded."

He did point out, however, that there were agreements in CARICOM on general principles which he called "dogmas", but certainly not specifics.

Skeete said it was still unclear as to the criteria which the United States was going to use to determine which countries needed the money the most. Reagan in his address said he was asking Congress for a supplemental appropriation to assist countries which were particularly hard-hit economically. Much of this aid would be concentrated on the private sector.

With respect to the question of security, Skeete said:

"We accept that the United States is bound to be concerned about its security in much the same way Barbados would be concerned about its own; but reasonable people can differ on how these concerns can be met."

Guyana's ambassador, Mr. Frederick Grant, said that he hailed the initiative as "a genuine attempt to meet problems of the area".

He said that his government was awaiting to see how much of the promised aid would remain for the Caribbean area when United States had fulfilled its commitments to Central America.

OAS Officer's Reaction

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 26 Feb 82 p 32

[Article by Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia--Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of American States (OAS), Barbadian, Val McComie, said yesterday it was too early to make a perceptive judgment about the likely effectiveness of the newly-announced United States aid-plan for the Caribbean and Central America.

In a telephone comment from his Washington office, he said however, that on the surface it appeared that the English-speaking Caribbean states would not be the major beneficiaries of the plan announced on Wednesday by America's President Ronald Reagan, in an address to the OAS.

The so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), has its centre-piece, a 12-year-plan under which the exports from the two dozen countries involved--clothes and textiles excluded--would be admitted into the United States market duty free.

An extra US\$350 million in economic aid for the most hard-pressed states in the region, and incentives for business interests are also part of the scheme.

McComie said that with the exception of Jamaica, and perhaps the Dominican Republic, it appeared that most of the assistance mentioned in the plan would be directed to Central American countries.

"I think that in itself might be some sort of disappointment to the countries in the Caribbean, since they have the problem that traditionally when one talks about the Caribbean, one usually refers to the insular countries of the region.

"This might add to some of the disappointment that might be experienced at the fact that a Caribbean Basin Plan does not really offer adequate measures to benefit the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean."

The OAS deputy chief said there was one positive aspect of the plan which related to the general tone of the presidents' views, in which he tried "to redress the image or impression, that the United States is the most powerful country in the hemisphere, has been in a sense, dominating the affairs of the hemisphere and whenever the United States attempts to deal with the other countries of the hemisphere, it has sometimes acted paternalistically."

He said:

"I think that an attempt was made in his speech to try to give the impression that the United States was very much aware of its own deficiencies, and in that sense felt very much an equal of the other member-countries of the OAS.

A third point, McComie said was where the president "expressed concern about the security of the hemisphere and his identification of communism, and communist countries, posing a threat to the hemisphere."

"I think that this is a matter of perception and I'm not in a position to make any comment on the internal view of any member-country," McComie added.

St Lucia Opposition Leader

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Feb 82 p 3

[Text] Castries St. Lucia Saturday--Political leader of St. Lucia's United Workers Party (UWP) John Compton has described President Reagan's plan to promote economic development in the region as far-reaching.

He said the plan, which was announced on Wednesday and seeks to give the Caribbean and Central America US\$350 million in aid and duty free access for regional exports to United States markets for 12 years, would be as important to the Caribbean as the Marshall Plan was to Europe.

The Marshall Plan, named after a former American General, helped rebuild war-torn Western Europe after World War II.

Mr Compton said Caribbean governments should get together and workout a response to the plan.

Mr Compton said "It is an opportunity that the Caribbean should not miss, for it may not come again. If we take full advantage of the plan the Caribbean can become one of the most prosperous areas of the developing world."

CSO: 3025/199

HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES INCIDENTS WITH NICARAGUA

PA171549 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] There is concern in the liberal government over incidents with Nicaragua. Honduran Foreign Minister [title as heard] Edgardo Paz Barnica made a statement to this station about the situation. He asserts, among other things, that action will be taken and that Honduras will show and demand respect. Listen to (Marco Tulio Romero's) interview with Foreign Minister Paz Barnica:

[Begin recording] [Question] What does the Foreign Ministry know about the incident at the Gulf of Fonseca, Mr Minister?

[Answer] This regrettable incident occurred yesterday at approximately 1100. The Foreign Ministry has received the report in order to take the appropriate steps in such regrettable situations. Nevertheless, President Suazo Cordova's constitutional and democratic government has repeatedly and increasingly stated its intention to avoid repetitions of these incidents. It wants us to be respected the same way we respect other countries.

[Question] What does the report say, Mr Foreign Minister?

[Answer] I cannot give you any details on the report but I believe some media have published something in that regard.

[Question] Since the Honduran people sometimes know nothing about these matters, what steps will be taken by the Foreign Ministry?

[Answer] I cannot say anything for the moment because these are matters of national interest which are dealt with in the most appropriate and cautious way possible.

[Membreno] Logically, the development is a source of concern for the Honduran authorities, and this is confirmed by Foreign Minister Paz Barnica?

[Paz Barnica] As in any other government, there is concern in the Honduran Government when incidents arise. However, there is also the determination to overcome them the best possible way.

[Question] Mr Minister, we notice that the foreign ministers of Central America are constantly making efforts but the situation is growing worse every day on the isthmus. What is your opinion on this? What about the strengthening of the Central American democratic community, which has not been noticed yet?

[Answer] As you know, Central America is facing difficult situations, political turmoil and social unrest. Honduras firmly believes in principles like self-determination of peoples, nonintervention and the establishment of democratic governments through peaceful means in order for them to make economic, political and social changes. Honduras is strengthening its democratic stance domestically in order to project it internationally the same way. [end recording]

CSO: 3010/1095

'BARRICADA' CITES HONDURAN DAILY ON U.S. WARSHIP

PA150227 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa (ANN)--The local paper LA TRIBUNA yesterday said of the repeatedly denounced presence of a U.S. warship off the Honduran coasts that it could indicate "a worsening of the dangers facing Central America."

Under the title "Are We Biting Off More Than We Can Chew?" the paper refers to the presence of the destroyer "U.S. Caron," detected in the Gulf of Fonseca. The ship has the military capability common to its class and the most modern equipment for intercepting transmissions.

"A guest of this type in Central American waters causes alarm for obvious reasons," the paper said. It cited Efraim Bu Giron, president of the legislature, as saying that "the congress has not granted permission for the presence" of the ship in the Gulf of Fonseca.

LA TRIBUNA notes that three countries have coastal rights on the Gulf of Fonseca: Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. It said: "If our government has not granted authorization for the destroyer to be there, and the Nicaraguan Government has not done so either, the only other possibility is that permission has been granted by El Salvador."

The Salvadoran Government, it adds, "is, moreover, the one that receives greatest protection from the presence of that craft. Therefore, it would not be surprising [for El Salvador to have granted permission]."

However, the paper adds, the United States "has been reserving something that is even more cause for concern." It was alluding to the reported secret negotiations with the Honduran Government for the installation of U.S. military bases in Honduras and Colombia.

"Why should Honduras be one of the countries chosen for the establishment of foreign military bases?" LA TRIBUNA asks. It adds that if, according to the United States, El Salvador and Guatemala are openly confronting guerrillas, "why not establish the bases there as reinforcement?"

The paper also asks: "What then is to become of our policy of neutrality?" The paper continued: "If we renounce it, we will become belligerents, not only to attack, but also to be attacked. Is the sacrifice worthwhile?"

CSO: 3010/1095

PANAMA, NICARAGUA SIGN NEW BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT

PA142000 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Mar 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Nelson Lee Caceres]

[Text] Panama and Nicaragua signed a new agreement yesterday after reviewing a number of provisions of their bilateral free and preferential trade agreement that were harming our country's commercial interests.

Panama had asked for a solution to its trade problems with Nicaragua because our trade with it was dwindling, said Panamanian foreign trade director Ivonne Ruiz A.

Ruiz added that Nicaragua's lack of foreign exchange was critically harming our country's interests because there was no guarantee of collecting payment for our products.

Panama's exports to Nicaragua and expansion of its free trade with Nicaragua had diminished.

Our country took a big step in this regard when it introduced into the new agreement a system to clear payments between Banco Nacional de Panama and the Nicaraguan Central Bank, thereby establishing a measure of stability in the trade relations between the two countries.

In the new agreement, "the Government of Panama states its willingness to make arrangements to grant a line of credit up to \$10 million to the Nicaraguan Government to finance imports of Panamanian products under the free and preferential trade treaty."

The new agreement was signed by Orlando Solarno, general director of economic integration of Nicaragua; and by Ivonne Ruiz; on behalf of the Nicaraguan and Panamanian governments, respectively.

When questioned about the new agreement, Nicaraguan ambassador to Panama, Francisco Quinonez Reyes said that "it is a show of friendship and cooperation; it shows the degree of understanding that has always existed between the two countries."

The Nicaraguan ambassador added that the very spirit of the treaty demonstrates this because it deals with economic, rather than political, aspects under the spirit of solidarity and understanding between the two peoples.

REPORTAGE ON CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

Lester Bird's Remarks

FLO42002 Bridgetown CANA in English 1648 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, 4 Mar (CANA)--Antigua and Barbudas Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird has said that while it is a matter of deep regret that some Caribbean countries have been omitted from President Ronald Reagan's basin package, Caribbean trade unions should not fall into the trap of completely rejecting the proposals.

Addressing a two-day seminar here on cruise ships for Caribbean trade unionists, Mr Bird noted that by falling into such a trap, Caribbean trade unions will merely be strengthening the arguments of those lobbyists in Washington, including trade unions, which do not see value in creating employment in the Caribbean.

"Instead of arming those who oppose assistance to the Caribbean, our trade unions should be advancing arguments in support of more assistance to the Caribbean."

The deputy prime minister said he believed that already some unions in the United States were being encouraged to lobby with Congress against a number of the proposals announced by President Reagan on February 24 to the Organisation of American States (OAS).

"Unions which represent rum-producing workers and workers in the textile industry will be among those lobbyists, for they will perceive quotas for textiles and duty-free treatment for imports of rum as a threat to employment in those industries."

There had been a mixed reaction in the Caribbean basin to the President's proposals, Mr Bird noted. "In the Eastern Caribbean, governments have been emphasising the urgent need for assistance in the area of infrastructural development, and we will want a clear indication that Mr Reagan's proposals address our priorities and needs in this regard.

"But when his proposals are examined as a whole, the obvious conclusion is that it is the most meaningful attempt to tackle Caribbean development yet announced by any U.S. Administration."

If trade unions gave their support to the plan, the U.S. Administration would be in a better position to get the approval of the Congress, he emphasised.

He noted that in advancing arguments in support of more assistance to the Caribbean, a number of factors would have to be taken into consideration, among them being that the productive capacity of the Caribbean basin countries is limited, while the U.S. economy offers larger scope for re-training workers in new productive capacity.

"The Caribbean has neither the money nor the facilities to re-train workers. Second, unemployed workers in the United States are maintained by the state while they re-train for new employment, but the brutal reality is that Caribbean basin workers have no unemployment benefits," Bird noted.

Thirdly, it is a fact that certain goods are produced more efficiently in developing countries, and in that context, he felt that the international trade union movement should support the principle of a universal division of labor whereby certain industries are allocated to developing states with free access to the markets of the industrialised world.

"After all, there are already hundreds of industries in the developed states which will never face competition from developing countries."

Mr Bird also said that consumers in the developed societies were in fact the victims of protectionist policies, for such policies were usually enforced because an industry was inefficient and could not compete.

"In this circumstance, the consumer is asked to pay higher prices for the products of industries which are inefficient, but which have a monopoly on the marketplace."

According to Mr Bird, a 1978 survey of all consumer goods in the U.S. found that goods imported from Asia and the Caribbean basin were sold for 16 per cent less than U.S. products of the same quality.

He argued that if the production of developing countries were restricted to protect jobs in developed states in the short-term, those jobs would be lost in the long-term anyway.

The minister urged the unionists to consider that when developing countries cannot export, they have no money to import, and since their imports originate in the developing states, it is jobs in those countries which will be lost.

He added that one job in every 20 in the United States was producing for export to developing countries.

"It should be clear, there, that it is in the interest of the international trade union movement to address this problem in a comprehensive manner and in a framework of a universal division of labour. He therefore called on the trade union leaders in the Caribbean to understand that they have a responsibility to their workers which they represent and to the global brotherhood of working people to advance their reality at the international level.

Barbados Government, Opposition Remarks

FL081325 Bridgetown CANA in English 0036 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 7 Mar (CANA)--Government and opposition parliamentarians in Barbados have expressed misgivings about the strong bilateral orientation of the United States contribution to the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

Spokesmen for both sides in the House of Assembly have raised fears that the U.S. emphasis on government-to-government contact between Washington and CBI states could by playing down regional coordinating institutions tend to fragment the 12-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

As outlined by President Ronald Reagan February 24, the U.S. component comprises mainly an additional 350 million dollars (U.S.) in bilateral economic aid, duty free access to the U.S. market for most regional goods for 12 years and a package of incentives for American businessmen to invest in the area.

Government said in the house Friday that it still had little concrete information on the CBI, and so it could give no detailed response until after the Belize meeting of CARICOM foreign ministers this month.

But Deputy Prime Minister Bernard St John made it clear that Barbados considered it important "for all to understand that the governments of the area have taken a tremendous amount of time and effort in building up regional institutions" and in keeping them going.

And Mr St John said that Barbados Foreign Minister Luis Tull would be taking that message to the Belize conference.

Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) spokesman Branford Thitt said the U.S. stress on bilateral negotiations would put pressure on regional states.

"It behooves us no good when anyone uses economic might, political power or any other device to seek to divide us," the opposition MP declared.

He described the U.S. proposals as a return to the "carrot and stick" diplomacy and said the Caribbean must face the U.S. with dignity, and as an independent people who will stand no nonsense from them.

Foreign Minister Tull pointed to the CARICOM secretariat and the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) as important regional coordinating institutions, neither of which is earmarked for any major role under the U.S. scheme as announced.

U.S. concern with bilateral dealings under the CBI would therefore lead to "a bit of fragmentation" in the regional grouping, as each government tried to get the best for itself, Mr Tull said.

Minister Tull lamented the fact that there had not been more CARICOM input into the plan.

He recalled that when the CARICOM foreign ministers last met they had little information on the CBI, but there was the understanding that there were to be four donor countries.

The ministers therefore set up a technical group to make specific proposals to put to these four countries, but before they could meet again to consider the experts report, the U.S. had unveiled part one of the plan.

According to Mr Tull all the ministers can do in Belize now is analyse what President Reagan had proposed, and make projections about the likely input of the three other donor countries, Venezuela, Mexico and Canada.

The Barbados foreign minister also expressed some surprise over the elation which he said had come from the regional private sector over the plan.

There are certain provisos that will have to be analysed, he said and cited as an example one which said the U.S. secretary of agriculture had the power to adjust the duty free concessions for regional goods, if they appear to be giving American producers too much competition. Mr Tull said he would be consulting with the private sector and exchanging information to come up with a common approach.

The foreign minister was disappointed too that in his speech to the Organisation of American States outlining the CBI, President Reagan had made no mention of the assistance Trinidad and Tobago had given its CARICOM neighbours in the field of energy.

"We can say categorically that the contribution of Trinidad to other states has been quite exemplary," Mr Tull said.

Barbados' Taitt's Remarks

FL090049 Bridgetown CANA in English 0020 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 8 Mar (CANA)--Former Barbados Trade Minister Branford Taitt says the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI] of the United States seems like an attempt to divide and rule among regional countries.

Expressing concern about the American emphasis on bilateral rather than regional negotiations, Taitt, now an opposition member of parliament, said the scheme smacked of the "carrot and stick" diplomacy.

Speaking in the House of Assembly, Taitt contended that the long (six years') delay in the convening of a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government conference--highest decision making forum in the regional integration movement--had given people in Washington, "the belief that the Caribbean states are here to be picked off one by one."

Taitt, a lawyer, declared that there was nothing really new in the U.S. component of the CBI. In fact, he said, President Reagan's proposals were less than what the region got from the European Economic Community (EEC) under the 1975 Lome trade and aid agreement, which links the two blocs.

President Reagan has proposed an additional 350 million dollars (U.S.) in economic aid, 12 years of duty free access into the U.S. for Caribbean Basin products (clothes and textiles excluded) and a series of incentives to American investors to set up in the region.

Taitt, a minister in the former Democratic Labour Party (DLP) government (1961-1976), said the bilateral nature of the American CBI would put more pressure on regional states.

He said it was a fallacy and a sin for the region to believe that American markets would be thrown open to the Caribbean under the free trade arrangement.

What the region needed, he said, is assistance to allow it to manufacture in large quantities and at sufficiently high quality levels that the question of which market Caribbean products get into would be secondary.

He said that if the U.S. was so concerned about stimulating the economic growth of this area, it should seek to reduce its high interest rates, so that more money would be available to manufacturers for productive purposes.

"It behooves us no good when anyone uses economic might, political power or any other device to seek to divide us," the opposition MP declared.

The region, he said, must face the U.S. with dignity and as independent people "who will stand no nonsense from them."

Jamaica's WPJ Remarks

FL081805 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 8 Mar 82

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 8 Mar (CANA)--The Marxist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) today denounced President Reagan's Caribbean Basin aid plan as a strategy aimed at "strengthening the political and military influence of United States imperialism over the region."

The WPJ, a pro-Moscow party, estimated to control between one and three percent of the popular vote here, said that the plan invited a "cut-throat attitude among" regional countries with foreign investors playing countries each against the other, so as to enter the U.S. market cheapest.

Under the proposal, the United States would allow all Caribbean Basin products, except textiles and clothes, duty free entry to the U.S. markets for 12 years.

There are incentives for U.S. businesses to invest in the region, in addition to institutional support for the development of the private sector.

Also the United States would this year increase its economic aid to basin countries by 350 million dollars (U.S.).

But the WPJ said that in return, the countries had to grant favourable terms to foreign investment, as well as deregulate all import restrictions "even as the United States President guarantees U.S. industry, agriculture and labour that all the protections now available to them against 'disruptive imports' will remain."

Said the party: "Clearly, such a policy will serve to force those nationals who manufacture for home markets out of business by dumping cheap imports or, at best, turn them into junior partners with imperialism in their own country. This process is already taking place in Jamaica where sections of the Jamaican manufacturing classes, in particular workers, are experiencing its effects in the loss of jobs."

It said that basin countries willing to offer greater "climate of confidence" than their neighbours would be the ones to benefit.

"Thus, the Caribbean Basin plan will divide and rule the Caribbean," it added.

It was mainly because the Reagan proposals were not in the best interest of the Caribbean that they had not received the backing of Mexico and Venezuela, the WPJ said.

It declared: "The plan is designed to strengthen American economic and military interests. This is frankly stated by President Reagan.

"The plan must, therefore, be viewed as part and parcel of United States military strategy which includes the plan to set up a military air base in the Western Caribbean, the NATO war manoeuvres in the Gulf of Mexico, and according to President Reagan himself, increased military aid to so-called friendly countries."

In this regard, the Marxist party added, the exclusion of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada from the programme was no surprise, "in view of the staunch defence by these countries of their national (?sovereignty and aggression) against the United States military.

Manley's Remarks

FL050221 Bridgetown CANA in English 0005 GMT 5 Mar 82

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 4 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica's opposition leader Michael Manley today criticised the heavy private sector emphasis of the U.S. Caribbean Basin aid plan, arguing that it left no room for ideological pluralism in the region.

Manley outlined the views of his opposition People's National Party (PNP) on the plan shortly before he met with diplomats based here, whom, he said, would be told essentially the same things.

The former prime minister rejected the implied exclusion of leftist Nicaragua and Grenada from the programme, declaring that the move struck at the "fundamental root and institutional integrity" of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The aim of the United States was to divide and rule.

President Reagan in a speech before the OAS February 24 outlined the long-awaited initiative, promising a one-way free-trade for Caribbean basin goods for 12 years, incentives for U.S. businesses to invest in the region, as well as the liberalisation of the policies of official institutions which finance investments.

There are also plans for technical assistance aimed at developing the region's private sector, as well as an additional 350 million dollars (U.S.) economic aid package this year.

Said Mr Manley: "The plan is not a balanced plan that looks at the public and the private sector as elements in a total movement forward, but places the whole movement on private investment.

"There is no room for pluralism. There is no room for people who might have a slightly different view of economic strategy. Only if you will bow at the altar of free marketeering is there a place in the kingdom", he added.

Mr Manley felt that the heavy leaning toward the private sector without a corresponding incremental increase in assistance to the public sector was shortsighted since, without the necessary infrastructure, the countries would not be able to attract the levels of investment anticipated.

He said too that the policy would deepen the dependence on the economies of the region on the movement of capital.

The PNP leader described as "a massive distortion of history" those statements claiming that the proposed free trade policy of President Reagan as unprecedented. He said that the European Economic Community (EEC) had been doing the same thing for 37 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, under the Lome Convention, for several years.

Manley said the PNP had hoped that in the plan there would have been no attempt to discriminate between states.

There were hopes for "a plan aimed to benefit the people of the region because of the people of the region", and not because of a country's philosophy.

However, President Reagan in outlining the plan indicated that Grenada and Nicaragua, which had leftwing governments, would be excluded because they were peddling communism and threatening regional peace and security.

Manley pointed out that both countries were members of the OAS "in good standing", and in addition, Grenada was part of CARICOM.

Said the opposition leader: "CARICOM's constitution clearly calls for non-discriminatory treatment and places the onus on all members to stand up for fair treatment of all members."

At a meeting here last August CARICOM foreign ministers had urged that no member state should be left out of the basin plan--which also involves Canada, Mexico and Venezuela as donors--because of its political philosophy.

But the Jamaican prime minister, Edward Seaga, last week indicated that his government would not protest Grenada's exclusion, saying that from the beginning Jamaica saw the initiative as a "multilateral basket of bilateral programmes." with each donor country dealing with any recipient country it wanted to help.

Mr Manley described that position as "a good ex post facto apology."

While Nicaragua and Grenada were being excluded from the programme because they had failed to hold elections (which both have recently publicly pledged to do), Mr Manley noted that "squalid, fascist dictatorships" such as Guatemala's and El Salvador's and others in Central America would benefit. "Regimes that are literally steeped in blood."

The former Jamaican prime minister also rejected President Reagan's arguments that there was a Soviet threat to the region being expressed through Cuba.

"A myth has to be invented to justify increased military assistance to prop-up those regimes in the region that are defending oligarchies, defending corruption, defending tyranny...."

Mr Manley said that his party was calling for the removal of incremental military assistance to governments in the area.

Said he: "We deplore this. We think it is a retrograde step. We agree with those people who have been calling recently for the region to be declared a zone of peace."

He called too for policy strings to be removed from the plan and for all countries in the region to become a part of any programme.

"We repudiate this (the exclusion of any country) as wrong and dangerous for the future if you leave out a country that is actually and geographically in the Caribbean," he declared.

Mr Manley also accused President Reagan of a "blatant and continuous interference in the internal affairs of Jamaica," and said that the President must have spoken out of "abysmal ignorance or blatant dishonesty" with his remarks that there had been unprecedented levels of unemployment here during the past 10 years.

When his party came to power in 1972 unemployment here was 25 percent, but despite "external economic pressures, internal sabotage and acts of God," when it left office in 1980, the figure had risen by only one percent, Mr Manley said.

President Reagan had said that Jamaica was making freedom work again.

Manley responded that if any one wanted to know about freedom in Jamaica during his period in office, they just needed to have come here and read back issues of the GLEANER newspaper.

The GLEANER is a conservative daily which was often critical of the Manley government.

Private Investments To Be Encouraged

FL102378 Bridgetown CANA in English 2206 GMT 10 Mar 82

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 10 Mar (CANA)—President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), which is expected to encourage U.S. private investments in the region, could also spur British capital to the Caribbean, Ray Burman, the leader of a British trade mission to Jamaica, said today.

Mr Burman, who is chairman of the West Indies Trade Advisory Group, which advises the British Trade Board in trade matters with the region, told reporters the CBI could provide an opportunity for "off-shore" investment which could help British industries off-set some of the slump at home.

Under Mr Reagan's proposals, if passed by Congress, all Caribbean and Central American goods with the exception of textiles and clothing, would have free access to the U.S. markets for 12 years.

The value added levels for most goods quality for access to the U.S. market would be lowered.

"One of the attractive things of the CBI is that it attempts to pull investment from wherever," Mr Burman said.

Mr Burman, whose mission to Jamaica is sponsored by the West India Committee, however, said that British business expecting to invest in the region could expect strong competition from American firms. They would, therefore, have to be aggressive.

He said too that British business had a "realistic appreciation" of the differing opportunities among the islands and would be looking for the "fine print" that emerged in the final plan.

The differing opportunities, he pointed out, largely related to the levels of infrastructural development in each country, which could dictate how far a particular state participated in the CBI proposals.

The mission to Jamaica, which concludes today, involves 19 British companies selling a wide range of products, and Mr Burman said the foray was timed to take advantage of the "recovery that has been going on in the Jamaica economy" and to restore the declined trade flows between the two countries.

The mission has been having a good response, he said, but could give no figures of actual sales.

However, Mr Burman estimated that there was potential for immediate business to the value of 40 to 50 million pounds sterling once foreign exchange and the requisite guarantees were available.

Jamaican purchases from Britain, because of the country's tight economic situation, has been on the decline, falling from 65 million pounds sterling in 1975 to about 35 million pounds sterling in 1980. It was estimated that purchases were 43 million pounds sterling last year.

Mr Burman said that during the period, inflation taken into account, British sales to Jamaica should have been between 110 and 120 million pounds sterling.

At the same time Jamaican sales to Britain in 1980 was 93 million pounds sterling in 1980 and slightly higher last year.

"In the long run we want to get a better balance, but there is a historical relationship between the two countries, and we want to trade to our mutual benefit," he said. "I am interested in the total expansion of trade flows."

Burman said that the West India Committee, of which he is immediate past chairman, has been pressing for the British Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) to restore full coverage of products for export to Jamaica as a means of stimulating trade between the countries.

The coverage was suspended in late 1980 because of Jamaica's foreign exchange crisis at the time.

"There are now limited lines of credit, but not having full coverage places a limitation on the ability for trade between the U.K. and Jamaica," he said.

Mr Burman added that the possibility for British investment in Jamaica, on either a joint venture or direct basis, was very good. There were "very definite possibilities" both with people on this mission and elsewhere, he emphasised.

CSO: 3025/1048

JAMAICA'S SHEARER VISITS BARBADOS

FL181710 Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Report by Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 18 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica's deputy prime minister, Hugh Shearer, arrived in Barbados today for two days of talks with top government and trade union officials.

Mr Shearer, who came here from Trinidad and Tobago where he met government officials including Foreign Minister Dr Basil Ince, and Prime Minister George Chambers, is heading a five-man delegation.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman named the team as Jamaica's ambassador designate to Barbados, Mrs Ellen Bogle, Mr Lloyd Barnett, director of the political division of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; director of foreign trade, Mr T. Simpson and a protocol officer.

According to an official release, Mr Shearer who is also responsible for foreign affairs and trade, will begin his round of talks with government officials here tomorrow.

But the Foreign Ministry official said he would most likely hold discussions today with Mr Frank Walcott, general secretary of Barbados' most powerful labour organisation, the Barbados Workers Union (BWU).

Mr Shearer is also likely to meet today with the secretary-treasurer of the locally based Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), Mr Burns Bonadie, he said.

The government release said the Jamaica deputy prime minister would meet Prime Minister Tom Adams, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade Bernard St. John, and Foreign Minister Louis Tull.

"The leaders will examine matters of mutual concern such as Barbados-Jamaica bilateral relations and regional matters within the framework of CARICOM," the release added.

Meanwhile, reports out of Port-of-Spain today indicated that Mr Shearer had raised the question of air travel between the two countries during his talks yesterday with Foreign Minister Dr Basil Ince.

The reports quoted Dr Ince as saying the discussions also touched on the number of flights which the state-owned airline, BWIA International, could make between Port-of-Spain and Kingston. Air Jamaica also proposes flying to Trinidad.

Mr Shearer and his party are expected to fly out of Barbados on Saturday, while ambassador-designate, Mrs Ellen Bogle, will return to her Port-of-Spain base.

CSO: 3025/1053

JAMAICA'S SHEARER ENDS VISIT TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FL171545 Bridgetown CANA in English 1501 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Report by Herman Wells]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 17 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica's deputy prime minister, Hugh Shearer was leaving here tomorrow for home, after two days of top level talks with senior Trinidad and Tobago government officials on aid, trade and regional affairs.

Mr Shearer, who is also foreign minister, however declined to be drawn into giving details about the discussions, though hinting that they touched on the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI)--a multilateral trade, aid and investment package being worked out for the region.

Asked whether Jamaica was seeking further assistance from this oil-rich Caribbean Community (CARICOM) partner, Mr Shearer replied "The role that Trinidad and Tobago will be playing in the entire initiative will be discussed when foreign ministers of the region meet at the end of the month (in Belize). I will not want to preempt that meeting."

An official statement from the Whitehall Office of Prime Minister George Chambers however said that Mr Shearer's visit was to discuss additional aid from Trinidad and Tobago, the U.S. contribution to the CBI, air travel, trade and the proposed CARICOM summit expected to be held this year.

Trinidad and Tobago extended a loan of 184 million dollars (1 TT dollar ; 41 cents U.S.) to Jamaica in 1976 when the socialist government of former prime minister, Michael Manley, was in power.

Mr Shearer said his visit was to affirm him the opportunity of meeting the new members of the Trinidad and Tobago government which was voted into office last November 9, and "to establish a contact on the basis of a relationship which we consider is needed and will be a good thing for the region."

The Jamaican foreign minister met his local counterpart, Dr Basil Ince, in addition to holding closed-door discussions with industry, commerce and consumer affairs minister, Desmond Cartey. An official source described Mr Shearer's talks with Mr Cartey as "cordial and fruitful."

Mr Shearer also held discussions with energy and natural resources minister, Patrick Manning.

He said that unlike the former Manley government which had imposed restrictions on intra-regional trade mainly because of a severe foreign exchange shortage, the Edward Seaga administration had been pursuing a programme of deregulation of this policy.

The Jamaica Labour Party government "has been opening up trade opportunities and removing restrictions as fast and as wide as the economy of the country can afford," Mr Shearer said.

The Jamaican deputy prime minister stressed that his administration had implemented a "deliberate (policy) which sought to expand private sector involvement in development (of the country)."

"We are encouraging private sector investment in Jamaica and we are inviting private sector investment from overseas on a joint venture basis with Jamaican entrepreneurship and we have set up institutions to handle proposals for such investment," he explained.

Mr Shearer said some 400 applications were currently being processed by the Jamaica National Investment Promotion Company--an agency set up to handle new investment.

On the proposed CARICOM heads of government summit expected to be held around the middle of this year, Mr Shearer said Jamaica was cognisant of the need for such a meeting and would attend it whenever it was convened.

"Jamaica will attend such a meeting as early as it can be arranged at a mutually convenient date and at any location agreed on by heads of," [as printed] Mr Shearer said.

CARICOM leaders had their last formal meeting in St Kitts in 1975.

CSO: 3025/1053

ANTI-IMPERIALIST TRIBUNAL SUPPORTS GRENADA

FL152333 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] The Central American and Caribbean anti-imperialist tribunal based in Nicaragua has issued a statement of solidarity with the Grenada revolution. The statement said the tribunal wants the United States to know that the Grenada revolution is not alone. A spokesman for the tribunal said all of the tribunal are ready to defend the Grenada revolution in any way possible. The anti-imperialist tribunal denounced what it called the criminal plans of the U.S. Government. The administration, it said, had placed over 40,000 soldiers in different parts of the region to carry out its insane intentions against the people. It said that this was being done in complicity with the most reactionary regimes in the region, including El Salvador.

The statement went on to say that not even with a million ships will the United States be able to [word indistinct] the resolve of the people of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada to carry out their own processes. Nor can imperialism stop the fighting people of El Salvador in their fight for freedom.

The tribunal said that in the face of the growing threat by U.S. imperialism, the tribunal called all peace-loving and democratic forces to join in a common anti-imperialist front to call for a stop to American aggressive action and (?to) be ready to struggle by all means possible to defeat the aggressors if they attack Grenada, Nicaragua or Cuba.

The Caribbean and Central American anti-imperialist tribunal said that it is sure that the people of Grenada will fight to the end against all aggressive actions by imperialism against Grenada.

The statement was released yesterday by Dr Guillermo Toriello Garrido, president of the anti-imperialist tribunal and a former foreign minister of the Revolutionary Government of Guatemala from 1944 to 1954. Dr Garrido is in Grenada as a delegate to the 3d anniversary of the Grenada revolution.

CSO: 3025/1053

GRENADA OFFICIALS VISIT VENEZUELA

FL182338 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman paid a 1-day state visit to Venezuela today at the invitation of President Luis Herrera Campins. The delegation was met on arrival at the international airport in Caracas by Venezuela's foreign minister, Jose Velasco Zambrano, and Grenada's ambassador to Venezuela, Matthew Williams.

This morning comrades Bishop and Whiteman held talks with Mr Campins at his Presidential Palace. They discussed the present status of the cooperation agreement between Venezuela and Grenada and explored the possibilities for the implementation of those aspects of the agreement which have not yet materialized. The two leaders also discussed the present political and economic situation in the Caribbean and Central America and spent some time analyzing President Reagan's proposed Caribbean Basin (?plan). Prime Minister Bishop thanked President Campins for assistance already received from Venezuela and expressed the hope that relations between Venezuela and Grenada would further develop.

This afternoon Prime Minister Bishop spoke with members of the Caracas media at a well-attended press conference in which he outlined Grenada's opposition to U.S. aggression and intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua and stated the PRG's [People's Revolutionary Government] rejection of Reagan's so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative. He also renewed his call for the Caribbean to be recognized and respected in practice as a zone of peace.

Comrade Bishop also took the opportunity to clear up a number of distortions about our country which have been appearing in the Venezuelan press in recent weeks.

While in Caracas, comrades Bishop and Whiteman also met with a group of prominent Venezuelans who are interested in establishing a Grenada-Venezuela friendship society.

The prime minister and his delegation flew back to St Georges later this afternoon.

CSO: 3025/1053

GUYANA'S PPP SCORES CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

FL151148 Bridgetown CANA in English 1948 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Report by Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 14 Mar (CANA)--Guyana's official opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), in a severe attack on the U.S. sponsored Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), says it is just another ploy to promote further U.S. exploitation of Caribbean economies and to reinforce imperialist domination in the area.

President Reagan said the 350 million dollar aid (U.S.) trade and incentive package for the Caribbean and Central America was designed to fuel development of countries in the area mainly through private sector investment to help ward off communist subversion.

Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada--all leftist states in the region--have been excluded from benefitting from the U.S. contribution to the plan which also provides for free one-way trade for Caribbean goods over a 12-year period. The plan is yet to win approval from congress.

The Marxist PPP, led by veteran Dr Cheddi Jagan, said it was significant that Washington had only decided to step up its vigilance of the region "it considers its own lake when revolution is on the upsurge."

The PPP likened the plan to the "ill-fated" alliance for progress, which it said the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy had unveiled in the early 60's when Cuba had already started on a socialist course.

"The CBI is anti-working class, anti-national, anti-communist and pro-imperialists. As such, it cannot solve the region's problems and will only exacerbate them.

"Anti-communism has never solved economic problems anywhere, even in the USA.

"The PPP feels however that because of harsh objective factors facing many of the right-wing puppet regimes in the region, they will participate in the

CBI, hoping for the largesse in funds which they expect to follow their abject surrender to U.S. strategic interests," the party said in a statement.

Most countries in the region have already welcomed the proposal.

The PPP said bankrupt governments in the region would get "a trickle of funds" under the CBI with strings attached. It did not name any government.

CSO: 3025/1053

BRIEFS

COSTA RICAN ENERGY MINISTER--Mexico City, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX)--Costa Rica's minister of energy, Fernando Altmann, arrived here tonight to sign an agreement on Mexican technical assistance in oil exploration to Costa Rica. The official said that Central American and Caribbean nations are worried about the possibility of Mexico pulling out of the economic assistance plan for the area. Concerning the situation in El Salvador, which he described as explosive, Altmann said that President Jose Lopez Portillo's proposal is the best solution to the conflict. He criticized the interference of the superpowers in Central America and said that the right of the countries of the area to choose the most suitable form of government must be respected. [Text] [FL152126 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0540 GMT 15 Mar 82]

NICARAGUAN HIJACKERS--The terrorists who hijacked a Sansa airline flight from Quepos to San Jose and who kept the people in suspense for almost 20 hours will be returned to Costa Rica this weekend. The terrorists who had dynamited the Radio Noticias del Continente installations and were then released as a demand of the hijackers will also be returned. The 11 members of that group, who identified themselves as Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, will be returned to Costa Rica in order to be tried. Attorney general's office sources said this morning that the Salvadoran supreme court of justice has approved the extradition of the 11 terrorists who arrived in El Salvador aboard the hijacked Sansa airplane. The prosecutor had recommended the extradition last weekend but it was not until late yesterday that the court issued its decision in this case. [Text] [PA162202 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Mar 82]

ARGENTINE, VENEZUELA MILITARY AID--Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (AFP)--Argentina and Venezuela are giving military aid to the Salvadoran government, Col Carlos Humberto Figueroa, Salvadoran ambassador to Argentina, told a local radio station here. He accused Cuba and the USSR of being responsible for the virtual civil war that is afflicting the Central American country. Ambassador Figueroa stressed the importance of the elections as a means to begin the country's pacification. However, he added, "we are not so naive as to think that if we hold the elections, the USSR, is not going to continue giving its support to terrorism through Cuba and Nicaragua."

Ambassador Figueroa complained about the lack of objectivity shown by the world's news media in its news reporting, which gives special attention to terrorism. Figueroa said that "the freedom and future of Latin America in general is at stake in El Salvador." While admitting the existence of "military support," Figueroa explained that "the military aid does not include men." We receive military aid and also food supplies, Figueroa indicated. The Honduran ambassador to Argentina was interviewed this morning by Radio Continental of Buenos Aires. [Text] [PA171304 Paris AFP in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Mar 82]

CUBAN EQUIPMENT TO GRENADA--Equipment for the construction of an industrial complex to make tiles, concrete blocks and materials for building houses arrived in Grenada today from Cuba. This industrial complex will be named after Augusto Sandino, father of the Nicaraguan revolution. Plans for the construction of the Sandino complex were first announced by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop earlier this month at the official opening of the Armando Ramon Quintana asphalt plant at (Mont Tachman) in St Georges. The equipment for the Sandino complex arrived in Grenada aboard the Cuban boat "Gonzalez (Lines)." Shortly after (?bracing) on the St Georges pier, the boat was visited by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and head of the Cuban delegation now in Grenada for the 3d anniversary of the revolution, Jorge Risquet. Aboard the ship "Gonzalez (Lines)" is an enormous quantity of material. Specifically, it contains all of the structural parts for the construction of the airport terminal. In addition, there are 6,000 tons of cement aboard and general appraisement equipment for work on the construction site of the international airport. Most significantly, the equipment for beginning the construction work on the block factory, the [word indistinct] factory and the Sandino housing plant, including the ice plant, has arrived aboard the ship. [Text] [FL142340 St Georges Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Mar 82]

GUYANA PRESIDENT HAILS GRENADA--Georgetown, Guyana, 16 Mar (CANA)--President Forbes Burnham of Guyana has sent a message of congratulations to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon of Grenada on the occasion of the third anniversary of the country's revolution. The message said: "On the occasion of the third anniversary of the people's revolution, I take great pleasure to send on behalf of myself, government and people of Guyana, warmest greetings and hearty congratulations to you, the government and people of Grenada. "My government has watched with keen interest, the achievements made by your government in its bold attempt to effect the social transformation of your country. "I look forward to your continued support in various regional and international fora for the advancement of the common cause of our peoples. "Please accept my best wishes for your good health and for the continued prosperity and progress of your nation." [Text] [FL161557 Bridgetown CANA in English 1418 GMT 16 Mar 82]

ANTI-IMPERIALIST DECLARATION--Progressive organizations of many English-speaking Caribbean nations signed in St Georges a document called the Declaration of Grenada, stressing their purpose to join the Central American and Caribbean Anti-Imperialist Tribunal [title as heard] and to support its struggle. The declaration was signed by representatives of progressive organizations of Barbados, Dominica, Antigua, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, St Vincent, Puerto Rico, Suriname and others. The delegations participated in the St Georges festivities to commemorate the third anniversary of the Grenada revolution. The representatives who signed the Declaration of Grenada condemned the U.S. threats against Grenada, Cuba, Nicaragua, and the struggling peoples of the region. Guillermo Toriello, president of the anti-imperialist tribunal, who participated in the Grenada anniversary festivities, stressed the reinforcement of that anti-imperialist front. [Text] [PA142134 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Mar 82]

ARGENTINES BEATEN IN CHILE--(NA)--Armed thugs kidnapped and tortured two Loma Negra Company employees in the Chilean town of Punta Arenas in an attempt to extract information concerning Argentina's Tierra Del Fuego military installations, official sources revealed yesterday. The employees, identified as Rio Grande residents Federico Romero and Jorge Finocchio, were allegedly in Punta Arenas to receive a load of cement which was being shipped there by the Loma Negra firm. The two Rio Grande residents were said to have been kidnapped by an armed group outside the Punta Arenas Hotel El Cabo Dos Hornos just as they were preparing to return to Rio Grande. They were allegedly shoved to the floor of a car and bound and gagged with adhesive tape. They were then said to have been driven to a hide-out and subjected to a variety of tortures. A formal note of protest, apparently related to the incident, was presented to the Chilean Government by the Argentine Foreign Ministry yesterday. [Text] [PY212035 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 20 Mar 82 p 9]

CSO: 3020/78

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA--St Johns, Antigua, 17 Mar (CANA)--Colombia and newly independent Antigua and Barbuda--today established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced. The two governments have agreed to exchange non-resident ambassadors. The communique said both governments were confident, that the agreement would help enhance relations between the two countries and to ensure closer and mutually beneficial ties between them. Antigua and Barbuda became independent last November. [Text] [FL172059 Bridgetown CANA in English 2040 GMT 17 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1055

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

PY212030 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 21 Mar 82 p 9

[Text] (DYN-NA)--The Government's long-awaited explanation on the subject of disappearances "will satisfy some and not others," Interior Minister Alfredo Saint Jean said yesterday, but it will be the armed forces' "definitive answer, once and for all."

Saint Jean spoke to reporters at Ezeiza Airport before leaving for Rio Negro Province to attend the National Apple Festival, and denied that the list of missing persons being prepared represents the first interest the government has shown in the issue. "We have been receiving them (the relatives of the missing) for some time, and our office has been open to those who need it," he said.

Saint Jean also commented on the rally organized on Friday night by the multiparty organization in Parana, admitting that it was the most important of its kind since 1976.

Asked whether the government would authorize a similar rally in Buenos Aires, Saint Jean replied that "the political ban is only applied in selected cases, and the authorization to carry out meetings in (politically) closed places is available to those who respect the applicable rules."

He rejected the idea that Argentina is entering a new political phase, saying it "is a gradual opening to achieve the objectives we seek."

Saint Jean said he hoped the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) would request the "appropriate authorization" for the mass rally they have called for March 30 in the Plaza de Mayo. "It will then be decided whether to allow it or not," he added.

CSO: 3020/78

LABOR MINISTER CONCERNED ABOUT LAYOFFS

PY212048 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 20 Mar 82 p 9

[Text] (DYN)--Five thousand suspended Ford workers collected their 50 percent pay for the first fortnight of March yesterday under an unusual display of security forces at the plant, only for the plant to announce at the end of the day that it will be dismissing 22 percent of its workers soon.

Under visibly reinforced and close surveillance by army troops, the suspended workers began drifting in to the Florencio Varela plant at 7 a.m. to collect their wages.

Plant management explained the presence of the troops by adducing they foresaw disturbances among the workers, who, they said, faced probable dismissal.

Some 3,000 Ford workers will lose their jobs because of the company's inability to sell greatly accumulated car stocks.

At a meeting with Ford Motors Argentina President Juan Maria Courard on Thursday, Labor Minister Julio Porcile was said to have expressed the government's concern over what was quoted as "the high social cost" a massive layoff of workers could have on the nation as a whole.

On his part, Courard, who was slated to hold a new meeting with Porcile last night, issued a formal statement to the press saying that the company's "decision to reduce personnel at its plants of General Pacheco, Transax and Metcon by 22 percent obeys basically the difficult economic situation the country is going through, and the resulting recession in the automotive market. This decision has been taken," the statement adds, "to ensure work sources for numerous Argentine families."

"The company believes that economic measures put into effect by the national government will bear fruit," Courard stated, "and that it will result in a prompt recovery of the country's industrial activity."

The statement added that the company aims at rehiring "as soon as possible" the laid off personnel.

CSO: 3020/78

PAPER PUZZLED BY LIMITS ON INFORMATION ON MISSING PERSONS

PY182110 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 16 Mar 82 p 8

[Editorial: "'Exclusive' Information"]

[Text] There is ostensibly good news for those seeking information on members of their families who disappeared in the wave of social chaos and political violence prior to and following the 1976 military coup d'etate: The government has let it be known that it will give whatever information it has on the thousands of missing "case by case" and "exclusively" to relatives who solicit this information. If actively carried out, this announcement will be a blessing to many mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, children, sisters and brothers, some of whom have spent the better part of a decade searching for loved ones who were whisked, never to be seen again, out of bed, off their jobs, off the street or out of the homes of friends by heavily armed individuals claiming to be members of police or military security organizations. On the surface this announcement would appear to indicate a desire by the armed forces to clear up what can be cleared up of the stories behind the disappearances so as to close the books on one of the darkest chapters in Argentine political and social history.

Reading between the lines, however, there is something distinctly disturbing about the "exclusivity" of the information the military government plans to issue. The fact that the government plans to turn over information "exclusively" to members of missing persons' families would appear to indicate that the armed forces, though insisting that they are leading the country toward democracy, still do not understand the basic rules of democratic action. The obviously gross excesses which occurred during the so-called "dirty war"--it should be remembered that even putting aside those who might have simply left the country and "lost" themselves abroad for political reasons and those who may have been killed or driven into exile by pressure from the very terrorist groups with which they had had contact, literally thousands of people, some with no political connections whatsoever, were the victims of paramilitary kidnappers who made them "disappear"--constitute a subject for public explanation. Such excesses are not merely an offence against the victims and their families, but also and perhaps even more importantly, crimes against society and civilized rule of law.

What does the military hope to gain by releasing information "exclusively" to interested relatives of the missing? It would most certainly be a cynical line for the government to take to say that this was being done to spare the feelings of the families, since the armed forces have been blatantly unfeeling toward the obviously dramatic situation of the missing and their relatives up to this time. It seems instead to be a move by the government to open pandora's box a little at a time and thus somehow, it is perhaps hoped, lessen the international impact of the evils which may come whirling out of it. But this line of reasoning is fallacious, as is any other kind of coverup, since what it means is that instead of one loud explosion that would be disagreeable for a brief period and then be over, news of the missing is going to be released in a series of little noise bombs which will be going off in the international press for a long time to come as individual families release, one by one, the information they have been able to gather on their missing loved ones. The matter will continue thus to be cloaked in a sinister blanket of half-information which can only serve to keep alive a climate of suspicion and mistrust in Argentine society.

CSO: 3020/79

SPACE SATELLITE PROGRAM REPORTED

PY191509 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1530 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (TELAM)--The National Commission for Space Research (CNIE), under the jurisdiction of the Argentine Air Force, with the cooperation of specialized organizations, is studying the orbiting of a satellite for the exclusive use of national interests. The magazine AEROSPACIO refers to this important initiative in its last issue in an article signed by Gen (ret) Miguel Sanchez Pena, CNIE president.

Sanchez Pena says that the program for satellite development is not an exclusive CNIE project, but the natural CNIE leadership in this project cannot be questioned. Several national agencies that need information only obtainable from space are also interested in the project. The coordination already made with the Under Secretariat of Science and Technology (SUBCYT), the National Program of Radio Propagation (PRONANP) and the Institute of Astronomy and Space Physics (IAFE) resulted in the formulation of an inter-institutional objective with the signing of an agreement to carry out the project in successive stages.

SUBCYT, as the sponsor, and the other two organizations have coordinated with the CNIE to develop a scientific satellite whose first experimental prototype, named Project SAC-1-FE, will collect space-related information applicable to practical technologies which are currently outside our grasp, causing us to be dependent, and applicable to problems that do not seem capable of being solved.

General Sanchez Pena's article says that in general terms the full process to launch a national satellite has been divided into four main phases: 1) conception and research, which will end with the election and appointment of the main contractors; 2) development, the stage of execution during which the conceived product will become a finished and certified product; 3) production, focused on various technical aspects not taken into account during the prior stage since it will include the certifying of the first production element, efforts will be channelled toward other sectors, such as the economic aspect which many times jeopardizes the continuity of a project; and 4) postdevelopment, to fulfill the need for implementing a program of complementary actions.

There are two ways to proceed: total dependency on other states which supply basic information and bear in mind their own interests; and that of a strong effort which does not exclude foreign cooperation and technical contribution freely negotiated. The CNIE has considerable experience in the matter and has chosen the second path with remarkable success. The project of an Argentine satellite proves modestly and unassumingly that we will witness at the appropriate time the launching of a program which has no precedent in our country and which is bound to increase our prestige in the international community.

CSO: 3010/1080

RIGHTS SUPPORTERS HOLD MEETING AT PLAZA DE MAYO

PY191621 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2120 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (NA)--More than 1,000 persons took part in the Plaza de Mayo meeting called by the six organizations which support human rights. They delivered a petition to the Interior Ministry demanding "an immediate solution to the problem of the arrested/missing" and "the clarification of Ana Maria Martinez' death."

The meeting, which coincided with the regular Thursday meeting of the mothers of Plaza de Mayo, was also attended by political leaders and Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1980.

The meeting started at 1700 yesterday when the demonstrators began to arrive at the plaza. They were identified individually by some 100 police dressed in uniform and civilian clothes who surrounded the plaza.

The persons attending the gathering, more than 1,000 of them, chanted slogans such as "tell us where the missing persons are."

A group of representatives of the organizations which support human rights, headed by Eduardo Pimentel, head of the standing assembly, delivered a document addressed to Interior Minister Gen Alfredo Saint Jean in which they requested an audience with him.

Other politicians present at the Plaza de Mayo yesterday were: Nestor Vicente (Christian Democrat), Nilda Garre (Peronist), Jose Luis Valle (Intransigent), Simon Lazara (United Socialist) and Ethel Diaz (Popular Conservative). They said they were attending the meeting to express "their solidarity" with those who had organized it.

There was a bit of confusion during the meeting while the demonstrators were passing in front of the cathedral, when the police tried to arrest a young woman, but this was prevented by the people at the gathering.

CSO: 3010/1080

BRIEFS

POLICEMAN UNDER INVESTIGATION--(NA)--Buenos Aires provincial police announced yesterday that the policeman who recently shot and seriously wounded Movement for Integration and Development Party member Guillermo Bravo, is the subject of legal proceedings but that he is not being held in official custody. In a communique released yesterday, the provincial police explained that the 22-year-old Bravo was shot when "uniformed police in an unmarked car" attempted to request documentation from the occupants of an automobile. "The car in question sped away, motivating the police car to follow in pursuit," the communique said. "For reasons which are under study," the police release added, "a number of shots went off from an automatic weapon carried by one of the patrolmen," hitting Bravo "in the thorax area." [Text] [PY212057 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 20 Mar 82 p 9]

MULTIPARTY RALLY--(DYN-NA)--Leaders of the political parties which make up the multiparty grouping yesterday praised the rally organized by that group in Parana on Friday night as "marvellous" and "extraordinary." The rally, which attracted more than 5,000 participants who heard political speeches and chanted "the military dictatorship will end" and other anti-government slogans, was the first act in the multiparty group's announced plan of political mobilization. Provincial authorities allowed the demonstration in open contradiction of the nationwide ban on political activities, which is still in force everywhere except San Juan Province. Justicialist Vice President Deolindo Felipe Bittel, who spoke at the rally, described it yesterday as a "marvellous spectacle," and said it "demonstrated the civic maturity of the Argentine people." [Text] [PY212230 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 21 Mar 82 p 9]

PERONIST EXCLUSION--Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA)--Reliable sources have revealed that the military junta may have excluded businessman Anibal Demarco from [restrictions under] the institutional act. Demarco was social welfare minister during the presidency of Mrs Maria Estela Martinez de Peron. The sources have reported that next week Demarco and his wife will travel to Madrid in order to hold talks with Mrs Peron. The sources added that this political clearance was an important step, because it will serve as a basis for other political clearance cases under study by a general secretariat of one of the branches of the armed forces. Among those cases is that of former labor minister Carlos Ruckauff, one of the men close to union leader Lorenzo Miguel. Miguel is also included in the institutional act. [Text] [PY201602 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2306 GMT 19 Mar 82]

FNM URGES DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT, ELECTIONS

FL181600 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Mar 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Opposition leader Kendal Issacs today urged government to dissolve parliament "as soon as possible," and call elections to save the country's image.

"We seriously doubt, said the Free National Movement leader, "that the PLP government has the competence, the will and the moral authority to deal with the problems which are piling up."

Mr Issacs was particularly concerned "about the conduct of affairs in the House of Assembly" and was "afraid that irreparable damage will be done to the respect which our people have for this and other vital institutions.

"Already," he said, "there is much cynicism about the conduct of our affairs generally, about our style of politics and about the integrity of our governmental processes.

"The handling of the investigation into the alleged Manila document leaves in our opinion, much to be desired," he said. This was a reference to one of several documents produced in the House of Assembly by Marsh Harbour MP Mike Lightbourn, which purported to outline a meeting allegedly held by Everette Bannister, a friend of Prime Minister Pindling and Abe Leiber of Amherst Bank in Manila, the Philippines.

A house select committee, headed by Mr Lightbourn, was appointed to investigate allegations of payoffs to cabinet members and civil servants.

"The nation," he said, "continues to be bombarded by bad news from all sides. Publicity about crime and deteriorating conditions are beginning to affect our image abroad with serious consequences for our tourist industry. Industrial unrest seems to be building up to a confrontation which could result in further damage to the economy.

"The government in this election year," he said "are attempting to catch up with years of neglect of the infrastructure, we suspect at very great cost. The conduct of the nation's business in our parliament leaves much to be desired. And ZNS Television and Radio are being brazenly converted into campaigning tools of the governing party.

"We call on the government," he said, "to cause the district centres for registration to be opened evenings and Saturdays for the rest of March.

"We advise, for the good of the country and for a settled political atmosphere, that the house should be dissolved as soon as this is concluded and that new elections should take place. Furthermore, we demand that the government take all necessary steps to ensure fairplay and impartiality from the national broadcast and telecast media."

CSO: 3025/1058

COUNTRY SECTION

BARBADOS

CUBAN REFUGEE AGENCY PROPOSAL REJECTED

FL181730 Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Mar 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Barbados will not be used as a gateway for Cubans seeking legal entry into the United States.

The Barbados Government announced yesterday that it had rejected a proposal made to it by United States-based Cuban refugee organisations that Barbados be used as a transit point for the processing of Cubans seeking entry into the United States.

In outlining the reasons for its decision not to accept the proposal, the government said:

This nation could find itself with a major refugee problem, either from delays in the granting of visas to these people or from the attraction which the island would undoubtedly become as a haven for those seeking asylum. Furthermore, acceptance could also turn Barbados into a general refugee camp.

Barbados could also be landed with the problem of international terrorism since the island could conceivably become the meeting point for some of the exiles in Venezuela and Miami who have formed extremists groups responsible for violent activities.

Other third country schemes, involving Jamaica and Venezuela, have experienced problems arising from long delays in processing visas for Cubans en route to the U.S.

Barbados will not take part in the selection process and therefore would not be able to verify the authenticity of data received.

The language difference would impede the subsequent temporary or lengthy settlement of prospective emigrants and Barbados control over their activities. This would also complicate security arrangements.

In the event that money was not received for their maintenance after the first month or that they had to stay in Barbados longer than the anticipated two or three months, there could be a burden placed on the Barbados public services such as health and transportation.

There are Latin American countries such as Costa Rica which are geographically nearer to the United States and which could be approached to receive Cubans or increase the number of Cubans which they already receive. This would be less of a burden, from a cultural and social point of view, on those countries than it would be on Barbados.

CSO: 3025/1055

DAILY CRITICIZES ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY181240 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Feb 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Urgent Need To Correct Economic Measures"]

[Text] One of the best qualities of our people is knowing how to recognize achievements and errors; they applaud achievements and condemn errors. The applause is greater when errors are corrected.

Correcting mistakes is sometimes more positive than improving achievements because correction involves study, a process of maturity and experience, the remedies are more lasting and the solutions fall on more fertile ground.

Twenty-three days have passed since the approval of the economic measures of 5 February. The first results--despite what the government expected--are negative merely because they have too many defects: they are incomplete, incoherent and carry no structural changes. It hardly promotes home production and lower expenditures, which is in reality what was intended, what the people expected. None of the measures touch this key point. In sum, for the government and the people, this measure was merely a devaluation of our currency: the U.S. dollar went from 25 to 44 Bolivian pesos. The general situation of the structural problems continues the same as prior to 5 February. The Central Bank has no U.S. dollars to cover demands; demands are covered in very small amounts and only for certain imports; the parallel market is working half way because it has a limit which consequently created the black market which deals with illegal dollars from people who want to "launder" their many illegal operations.

The government has been pushed into taking measures; these measures were postponed week after week due to delays in studies, due to lack of funds supporting the measures, for political reasons and for many other reasons. Finally, after many improvisations, some of the measures were announced; others were even withheld from the communications media to prevent their disclosure. The new price of the U.S. dollar was fixed at the last minute, just before it was announced. In reality, the 5 February event took place hastily.

According to the background it seems that the measures were aimed at floating the U.S. dollar but at the last minute a decision was made setting it

at a fixed price. This decision was made without taking precautions, without having the means or the way to support the situation; that is, without the needed monetary reserves to take care of the demands.

One of the measures released last January--the new scale for taxes on income from personal services rendered--gave a guideline: money for the state had to be collected by all means. This measure, against legal regulations, created taxes on the Christmas and Independence Day bonus in order to increase the tax base. This measure appears to be favorable to people with a fixed income but in reality, if we keep the inflationary rates in mind, the measure will tend to increase taxes.

It would take too long to study point by point the many negative and the few positive aspects of the measure since this would only lead to label them again as inadequate to correct our economy. What should be done now more than ever before in the economic history of the country is to correct what the government tried to correct: our bad economic situation. Not making it worse by leaving things as they are "until the people get used to it," but to see honestly and responsibly that a coherent, capable and experienced government economic team thoroughly study in all its implications and consequences the best corrective measures; that a commission subject its actions only to reality and national interests. Solutions should not be improvised--as is the case of the subsidies which make later solutions more difficult--but measures should be adopted to solve immediate problems so that the government and the people know what to expect; showing reality and preventing the worsening of the economic, social and even political problems.

The government decision is important: This is in reality a political decision; a decision which implies courage and the sincere intention to correct mistakes and wrongdoings based on the principle that to err is human and that, for the people--always understanding and self-denying in times of trial--this decision will be proof that the government wants to serve them by setting the real bases for their progress and improvement.

CSO: 3010/1109

POLITICAL SITUATION VIEWED BY CORRESPONDENT

PY201609 Paris AFP in Spanish 1924 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Report by Andres Soliz Rada]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 19 Mar (AFP)--Analysts pointed out here today that the decision by the military high command to engage in a dialogue with the leaders of the most important political parties of the country would mark, even though indirectly, the end of the political recess enforced since the coup of 17 July 1980.

As a matter of fact, when President Torrelío accepted the suggestion to engage in a dialogue with the parties, many party leaders explained that the exchange of ideas will not be fruitful enough if it is not accompanied by a general and unconditional amnesty permitting the return of exiles.

Former President Padilla today told Radio Panamericana reporters that he regretted that the regime was summoning the parties only when it was about to panic, instead of having done it before the enactment of the economic measures on 5 February, so that the measures could have been based on a broad agreement.

Padilla admitted that he had promised the military high command that he would make no statement that could raise the population's concern although, he said, "in my capacity as a free man and former president, it is my duty to disclose my thoughts."

For his part, former President Hugo Banzer has suggested the creation of a civilian-military government based on the exchange of ideas with all parties of political significance, without exclusions of any kind.

This suggestion has been accepted by Torrelío Villa, while navy commander in chief Rear Adm Oscar Pammo made clear that the dialogue will include even former President Hernán Siles Suazo, the leader of the People's Democratic Union (UDP), the most important opposition front. Siles Suazo is living in exile in Lima, Peru.

Regrettably for Siles, the political opening in his country is taking shape at a moment when his party, the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), is deeply split because the party's leadership was appointed from Lima, disregarding the authority of resistance leaders democratically elected in a national convention, as was reported by the local press.

The historic National Revolutionary Movement (MNR-H), led by Victor Paz Estenssoro--who was Bolivian president three times--and the small but influential Christian Democratic Party (PDC) will also participate in the dialogue with the government. The PDC could help improve the relations between Bolivia and the EEC and could perhaps bring in Venezuelan petrodollars.

Even though Banzer has talked with the military command in his capacity as former armed forces commander, his party, the Nationalist Democratic Alliance (ADN)--which came out third in the 1980 elections--will also participate in the political dialogue and it will demand, as it has done so far, the restoration of democracy within a prudent term.

Everything seems to indicate that the total reshuffle of Torrelío's cabinet, announced several weeks ago, will only take place after completion of the round of talks with the larger political parties.

As a result of these talks, the military will decide whether it would be advantageous to call party members to participate in a team of ministers who will have to not only set the deadlines for the restoration of democracy but also enact new economic measures. [word indistinct] still unpredictable.

CSO: 3010/1109

PADILLA CRITICIZES TORRELIO'S GOVERNMENT

PY190258 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Former President David Padilla Arancibia has said that in order to maintain its political stability, the government led by General Torrelío should engage in an open dialogue with the entire citizenry irrespective of religious ideas, political affiliation or social class.

He also told reporters that the present military regime is going through a very difficult stage as far as its stability is concerned, remarking that both social and political unrest have noticeably grown since the date the corrective measures were enacted, thus impairing the country's image within the context of the international community. [recorded passage indistinct]

Padilla said that the present government has granted a more or less partial labor union opening under the pressure exercised by the Huanuni miners. He added that Bolivia has rights and duties toward the IMF as a member of that institution.

He remarked that the problems which are now being encountered are a consequence of the carelessness in the formulation of the corrective measures, since these were adopted without the necessary reserves in the Central Bank. All of these problems, he stressed, fall directly on the peoples' shoulders in all different social classes.

Padilla said that he was specifically invited to a meeting with the members of the higher military command and the president.

[Begin Padilla recording] The main purpose of that meeting was to tell me and to insinuate that I should not make any more statements to the national and international press because what I said or what I say provokes unrest within the armed forces and among the Bolivian people. However, I (?said) that in my capacity as a free man and citizen, and under the protection of the constitution, I could make statements concerning national matters and armed forces issues when I deem necessary. However, I told them that I

would avoid controversies [word indistinct] but at the same time I told them that I could not refrain from making statements on what is happening in Bolivia either. [end recording]

David Padilla also said that the armed forces are responsible for Bolivia's future and that patriotism and generosity should prevail at this moment in order to solve the country's crisis. He added that the national accord suggested by different civilian and military sectors is entirely feasible.

CSO: 3010/1109

MIR DEMANDS RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE

PY172103 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1915 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 9 Mar (TELAM)--The Executive Committee and the national leadership of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left of Bolivia (MIR), which is now in recess, today issued a declaration entitled "The Country Continues To Go Downhill" in which it demands that political liberties be restored and suggests that the bases be laid down for an agreement which would lead to the country's democratization and return to constitutional rule.

The document was published by the newspaper HOY as a half-page paid advertisement and was simultaneously released to the local media.

In the document signed by Oscar Eid Franco, Alfonso Camacho Pena and Gaston Encina Velarde, the MIR leadership proposes the reestablishment of democratic liberties and the immediate repeal of dictatorial emergency measures which have been in force since 17 July 1980. It also states that once political freedom has been secured, the bases must be laid down for an agreement which may give way to a process designed to promote democratization and the return to constitutional rule in Bolivia.

The document states that joint action should be taken to provide for the defense and recovery of the national and popular economy. It bases its proposal on the fact that the crisis in the country has grown to excessive proportions and has become intolerable for the entire Bolivian people, who are distressed and on the brink of despair.

The communique adds that the present regime has been stubbornly following the line of a government of national destruction since, harboring illusory hopes and acting against the interests of all of the country's sectors, it has attempted to impose an unsound plan to reorganize the country which was bound to fail from the very beginning.

CSO: 3010/1109

BRIEFS

FSB LEADERS' SUPPORT--La Paz, 18 Mar (AFP)--The conservative Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB) has publicly stated its support for a proposal made by Hernan Siles Zuazo, a former president of the country and leader of the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP), to the effect of forming a broad united front designed to democratize the country in the shortest possible time, it was reported here today. In a statement disseminated by the national press, FSB leaders Antonio Anze Jimenez, Jorge del Villar and Luis Mayser Ardaya termed Siles Zuazo's proposal laudable and voiced their belief that the time has come to end the splintering of populist movements in order for them to give the Bolivian people the option of turning to a united front. [Excerpt] [PY181810 Paris AFP in Spanish 1534 GMT 18 Mar 82]

PAMMO, SILES ZUAZO TO MEET--Vice Adm Oscar Pammo, commander of the Bolivian Naval Force, today invited former Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo to hold talks aimed at solving the Bolivian crisis. Siles Zuazo, who has been in exile in Lima, recently made a call to all political parties to form a democratic front. Pammo said that the members of the ruling Bolivian High Military Command are willing to hold talks with political and labor sectors, and with leaders of the Siles Zuazo-led Democratic and Popular Unity, UDP. He made it clear, however, that these talks should not be subject to any condition. The regime of General Torrelío has thus far held talks with former Presidents David Padilla and Hugo Banzer. Military officials have regarded these talks as fruitful. [Text] [PY181511 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Mar 82]

MERCADO ON ARMED GROUPS--Interior Minister Romulo Mercado has stated that the Interior Ministry has ordered an investigation into the existence of armed groups in the country. Mercado made this statement in reply to questions by reporters on the appearance of the Bolivia First [Bolivia Primero] Armed Group. In referring to the obituary published in a local daily newspaper on the death of the father of a former government official, Minister Mercado stated: I must say we were surprised by the obituary naming a political armed group. Concluding, the minister said that this government respects human rights in Bolivia above all things. [Text] [PY190110 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Mar 82]

IMF ON COUNTRY'S ECONOMY--Shortly before concluding a 3-week assessment of the Bolivian economy, members of an International Monetary Fund [IMF] mission have concluded that the 76 percent devaluation of the Bolivian peso decreed by the government caused the fiscal deficit to increase to 31 billion pesos, was not instrumental in solving the shortage of foreign currency and would even make it impossible for Bolivia to make payments for interest and amortization of its public debt. Upon disclosing their conclusions, the IMF representatives suggested that Bolivia adopt both a system to keep the dollar floating and a system of minidevaluations. The latter should be applied to the public sector and the former to the private sector since it would not be advisable to maintain a fixed exchange rate in view of the shortage of foreign currency. They also suggested that all subsidies be discontinued since these have a major bearing on the 31 million [as heard] Bolivian peso deficit estimated for 1982. The IMF representatives, who have been in the country since 21 February, yesterday submitted a report on their assessment to the government and will leave the country today to present their conclusions at the Washington-based IMF-headquarters. [Text] [PY181709 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Mar 82]

CSO: 3010/1109

ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN DIFFERENCES ON FOREIGN POLICY AIRED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 7

[Article by Hugo Martinez, correspondent: "In Search of Dialogue, Problems Arise"]

[Text] Buenos Aires--In San Martin Palace, seat of Argentine diplomacy, the trip of Foreign Minister Nicanor Mendez is said to have an "open agenda" and is asserted to have a clear political purpose. Moreover, Argentine diplomats mention that for the second consecutive time Brazil is chosen for beginning the foreign activities of the Argentine military government.

The first time this happened, according to these diplomats, was during the brief mandate of Gen Roberto Viola, when a meeting between him and President Joao Figueiredo was arranged at Paso de los Libres.

However, Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez preferred not to discuss his visit to Brazil. At first he scheduled a meeting with all correspondents of Brazilian publications in Buenos Aires. Later, however, he decided to postpone that meeting and eventually chose to cancel the interview.

Diplomatic sources asserted that the foreign minister decided on the cancellation because he considers silence more prudent, preferring not to risk answering questions about issues not yet clearly defined.

Among such undefined issues, Argentine diplomatic sources recall, is the Argentine government's position regarding El Salvador. Brazil and Argentina do not agree on this point: Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Saraiva Guerreiro believes that country's crisis will be solved only through efforts to solve its economic and social problems, while Argentina believes Salvadoran difficulties will be solved through military intervention.

In the opinion of most Argentine diplomats, General Galtieri sees the El Salvador problem from a strictly ideological viewpoint, as a challenge of international Marxism against the West.

Although Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez probably does not hold an identical view of the Salvadoran situation, as a minister of the Galtieri government he is not likely to be in a position to impose his personal preferences. It is known only that Mendez will try to explain to Guerreiro that the subject must be decided at the hemisphere level, as it affects the Latin American community.

At least in regard to the importance of the El Salvador crisis for the hemisphere the two countries are likely to agree, but Buenos Aires diplomats say that may be the only common point between the two parties.

United States

There are also differences between the Brazilian and Argentine governments about the policy each is adopting in relations with the United States. According to President Joao Figueiredo, "relations (with the U.S. government) are developing in a climate of great maturity, are based upon reciprocal respect and are characterized by a constant search for balanced and mutually satisfactory cooperation."

For General Galtieri's government, however, the relationship with the United States has a special nature, as Argentine authorities would like to have a kind of "delegated hegemony" in South America. In the opinion of some political commentators, because of this policy Argentina is trying to "fill the gap left by Brazil" in its relations with the U.S. government.

The current differences between the strategies of Brazil and Argentina can also be noted when one recalls the joint declaration signed by former President Jorge Videla and President Figueiredo in May 1980. On that occasion the two countries proposed correcting the inequities that affect the North-South relationship, increasing cooperation for development. Today, however, the Argentine government seems to have decided to join the United States in developing a policy of regional cooperation.

In that document, furthermore, Brazil and Argentina expressed solidarity for self-determination of Namibia and demanded an end to colonialism, in terms that are not part of General Galtieri's political vocabulary. Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez will convey to Brazil, for example, a concern about the situation of the Bolivian regime and will try to get the Brazilian government's support for the Argentine position on that country.

Energy

In regard to energy, Argentina continues to be interested in selling natural gas to Brazil and for this purpose will construct a gas pipeline. However, Brazilian diplomatic sources that are working in Buenos Aires said Brazil is not enthusiastic about this project, because of the political problems that could make an energy dependence dangerous.

Antarctica is another region that could create problems for relations between the two countries. Argentines think that Brazil has geopolitical motives about that area and some military men comment in Buenos Aires that these motives are expansionary.

The Argentine government has not yet made any statements about Brazilian intentions in the Antarctic but fears about the subject were revealed by official Argentine agencies that looked into the matter.

Because of all these problems, the impression one gets in Buenos Aires is that the climate of understanding between Brazil and Argentina was seriously impaired by resignation of Gen Roberto Viola and, more specifically, of Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion.

ISRAELIS REPORT PLO EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE BRAZILIAN MISSILES

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 12

[Article by Roberto Godoy]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Israeli military intelligence services received reports that "the PLO is trying to buy surface-to-surface missiles in Brazil, with a range of 40 to 70 kilometers," their director, Gen Yeoshua Saguy, stated yesterday. But he added guardedly that "although this report exists, we cannot yet confirm it."

General Saguy was reacting to the official U.S. declaration that there is not an intensive rearming of the PLO in southern Lebanon. Confirming it, he not only mentioned Brazil but also made additional revelations.

"The terrorists in southern Lebanon are not only Palestinians. There are foreigners from all over the world. For example, the Chilean MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], the Montoneros from Argentina, the IRA from Ireland, the Japanese Red Army, the Baader gang from the FRG and many others. There are also expeditionary forces from Libya and Yemen. Rearming has doubled. And Iraq is providing not only training camps but also passports and its own diplomatic pouches for transferring weapons abroad," he said. He made the further comment about Brazilian missiles that "they seem to be with the Katyushas ." But he repeated that "we cannot yet confirm this report." [by M. R.]

Were Israeli cities bombarded with Brazilian rockets? The query in the title of the headline and the question under discussion were on the front pages of leading Tel Aviv newspapers in 1980, when a PLO fedayeen commander announced that the terrorist organization was using "missiles and artillery rockets made in Sao Paulo, forwarded by governments friendly to the Palestinian nation." It was not true.

At that time only the Brazilian Army had experimented with the medium-range X-40 rockets produced in Sao Jose dos Campos by Avibras Aerospace, Inc, and although Iraq was already a steady customer of the company, it had not acquired any quantity of surface-to-surface saturation-type rockets. The Palestine Liberation Organization, however, never hid its clear intention of being supplied in Brazil, due to three factors: a certain identity among Third World countries; the effectiveness of the desired weapon; and, especially, the very competitive price of each item.

Through Arab diplomatic channels the PLO received technical information about the X-40 (146 kg of high explosive, 68-km range and 300-mm caliber) and X-20 (35 kg of explosives, 35-km range and 180-mm caliber) rockets and the R-108 multiple launcher with 16 barrels for saturation fire.

"Such sales were never made, because the Brazilian Government is unwilling to supply terrorists of any type," reports an important military source of the technological research sector, recalling that "during its last days the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua would have paid dearly for any support in supplies. However, from the Brazilian ordnance supply it never received--and it tried hard--so much as a thumb-screw." In fact, the first meetings with the PLO in September 1980 were explicitly resisted. It does not appear that the Itamaraty [Brazilian Foreign Affairs Ministry] position has changed in the last 19 months.

8834

CSO: 3001/90

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN 1981 TOTAL \$1.77 BILLION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 82 p 43

[Text] Brasilia--Foreign investments and reinvestments recorded in Brazil totaled \$1.77 billion last year--\$961 million in the last quarter alone--and the cumulative total increased from \$17.48 billion at the end of 1980 to \$19.25 billion last December. The Central Bank also revealed in its report for this month a net increase of \$7.56 billion in Brazil's foreign debt during 1981, with the cumulative total reaching \$61.41 billion.

The 10.1 percent increase in the amount of equity capital invested in the nation consisted of \$1.54 billion of new direct investment while reinvestment of profits from existing capital totaled only \$228 million in 1981, according to the register of the Department for Registration and Control of Foreign Capital (FIRCE) of the Central Bank.

The United States maintained its position as leading foreign investor in Brazil, with 30 percent of total equity investment. The FRG share fell from 14 percent in 1980 to 13.7 percent last year; Switzerland's remained unchanged at 10.2 percent; Japan's decreased from 9.87 percent to 9.2 percent; and the United Kingdom's continued to be 5.3 percent.

U.S. investments of \$5.77 billion, FRG's of \$2.64 billion, Switzerland's of \$1.96 billion, Japan's of \$1.81 billion and the United Kingdom's investments of \$1.02 billion, totaling \$13.28 billion, represented 69 percent of registered equity capital.

By sector, the Central Bank reported that 74.1 percent of foreign investment, or a total of \$14.26 billion, continued to be concentrated in manufacturing industry. The service sector received \$3.87 billion, or 20.1 percent of foreign equity capital, the Central Bank reported.

Balance

In January the foreign-trade surplus was only \$50 million, but the Central Bank pointed out that the series of measures taken last month increased the likelihood of reaching this year's goal of a \$3 billion trade surplus. For example, the Central Bank mentioned maintenance of the 1981 ceiling for imports by state enterprises at an aggregate amount of \$3.6 billion, the 750,000 barrel daily limit on foreign oil purchases in the first 4 months and the \$200 million maximum for imports of parts, pieces, equipment and components for the data-processing sector, while the Manaus Free Trade Zone's limit of \$500 million increased only 10 percent.

TANCREDO NEVES VIEWS PP-PMDB MERGER, PARTY'S FUTURE

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Feb 82 p 8

[Interview with Senator Tancredo Neves, PP [Popular Party] president, in Brasilia: "A Moderate Struggling Against Government's Extremism"; date and name of interviewer not given]

[Text] Brasilia--PP President Senator Tancredo Neves, in an exclusive interview by O GLOBO, again describes himself as a moderate. That is, as a man who always worked "so we can have in this country a broad-based climate of understanding, agreement and harmony."

That was his expectation about the Figueiredo government. Now, however, he asserts: "Rather than helping the country progress to the practice of democracy," the government "is actually fostering the most dangerous political extremism" ever seen in Brazil.

The senator does not believe the merger will cause the Popular Party to change its nature.

The merger, he stresses, is a step forward, with the purpose of giving realism to the ideas that gave birth to the PP:

"There is nothing gained by our pleading and preaching the democratic way if we do not transform ourselves into a realistic party. We were born with a commitment to power and not to an ideal, as was the case with the erstwhile Liberation Party."

[Question] You were always a moderate, who was able to compromise at the right moment to avoid polarization. Since the November election law, however, you have adopted an extreme position. Why?

[Answer] I always was, still am and forever will be a moderate. My moderation is not a temporary political position. It is part of my personal background. It is not a strategy. It is really a result of my intellectual and moral training. I have always striven for this country to have a broad-based climate of agreement, understanding and harmony among all branches of political thought. I was sure we had found such a climate with the promise of President Joao Baptista Figueiredo when he announced under oath that we would enter a period of democratic liberalization.

I have done everything to collaborate with the president so that this liberalization will not only be broadened but, above all, consolidated. It was with this intention of collaboration by this nation's leading public figures that we decided to form the Popular Party. The PP was not organized and was not institutionalized until we accepted in good faith the word of the president, who, in his statement of reasons accompanying the message for revising the law dealing with political parties sent to Congress, expressly, with his signature, declared that installation of the multiparty system would permit coalitions to obtain an electoral majority, multi-candidate slates would be abolished and each party would be permitted to organize according to its own particular interests. He affirmed the principle of self-determination for all opposition parties.

Making a tremendous effort, we organized the party in all states and territories with the nation's most levelheaded and competent political leaders. Just as we were prepared to launch our electoral campaign after having overcome all the obstacles created by the election law and by the rulings of the Superior Electoral Court regarding party organization, with no further ado and in a unilateral action the president of the republic surprised us with the November package, which made it completely impractical, deprived it of any room for expansion and, moreover, smothered it from the moment when, in the process of repression, he deprived it of the very atmosphere needed for its survival.

I have nothing personal against President Joao Baptista Figueiredo. I respect him as head of the nation, within the traditional concept that he is the symbol of the Brazilian people. I have the greatest respect for him as the commander in chief of the armed forces. I admire him as a human being, with his traits of character, his impetuous temperament and outspoken manner and even his contradictions. I have never said a word that could have dishonored him. But I cannot help but express my constant and permanent opposition to the political, administrative, social and economic policies of his government, which, instead of helping the nation advance toward the practice of democracy, is in fact directing the most dangerous political polarization we have ever witnessed.

[Question] What are the likely PP losses in terms of officeholders elected in 1982?

[Answer] Before the [election-reform] package, we--the opposition parties--would have elected 16 to 18 governors. With the package, we fell to only three governors. However, if the merger is consolidated, we won't get the 16 to 18 but we should elect 14 to 16 governors. And it is precisely this prospect of an opposition victory in the 1982 elections that impels the government to act in a manner that greatly contradicts our whole democratic tradition and its own promises to make this country a democracy.

[Question] In the short run the merger could enable the opposition to win most of the state governorships, but don't you think that in the long run dissolving the PP could jeopardize this transition process?

[Answer] Unquestionably this is a valid point, but it was the government that should have been thinking and reflecting upon it. To say nothing of the fact that it has done to the PP what it has never even done to the Communist Party in Brazil. From the moment we began to grow vigorously, all manner of difficulties were

created. All manner of obstacles were put in our path, and to the extent that the party confronted these obstacles and overcame them, to the extent that we became stronger and the party gained credibility in the eyes of national public opinion, it did not hesitate to strangle us with the November election package. The party guilty of destroying the PP, the only force capable of promoting a transition without shock or disruption, without reprisal or hatred--and it was created with this historic mission--was the government.

[Question] And who will play this role now?

[Answer] It will still be the PP, but from within the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party]. Just because we are now within the PMDB does not mean we have renounced our democratic commitments or our political principles. Within the PMDB we shall continue working for balance, stability and moderation, essential for consolidating the nation's democratic regime.

[Question] Do you share the view that the PP is forcing the PMDB more toward the center or, rather, more toward the right?

[Answer] No, neither one. The PMDB continues with its characteristics and the PP with its; the only thing is that the confluence of these currents will eventually lead to a compromise and this compromise is much closer to the center-left than to the left, strictly speaking.

[Question] Then the PMDB will be the same, and so will the PP?

[Answer] The PMDB, which was already a front party, simply adds to that front one more component which, being a force of the center-left, is characterized especially by the spirit of moderation and balance.

'A Constitution the People Love, Honor and Respect Is Needed'

[Question] Is it true that you had understandings, directly or through others, with President Figueiredo and also that you warned him about the dangers of polarization if he insisted upon linked voting?

[Answer] I never had the opportunity and honor of speaking with the president except in casual meetings and at social receptions. What prompted us to organize the PP was the guarantee we were given that in the multiparty system coalitions would be permitted and multicandidate slates would be abolished; that the parties would have the right of self-determination in decisions about matters of their particular interest. And the electoral package took this away from us. If we had known, when it was being organized, that the rules of the electoral game would be those that were established by the package, no politician in his right mind would have been eager to form a political party.

[Question] What are the chances of the PP collaborating with the government after 1982?

[Answer] If the merger goes through we will no longer think in terms of the PP because, within a party alliance, it will not be able to make its views prevail. If

the merger takes place--and I have no doubt that it will, because only brute force can prevent it--the PP as a party will no longer exist. It will be a force, with its influence, its nature, its commitments to principles, within the PMDB. With the merger, the opposition will elect governors in several states. These governors, to be able to govern, will need the support of the federal government. And the federal government, to maintain a climate of political harmony in the country, will also need these governors. So there will have to be an understanding, an interchange, a situation similar to that during the government of President Dutra, who, being from the PSD [Social Democratic Party], worked with several UDN [National Democratic Union] governors and at no time denied them administrative support.

[Question] Do you think the PP may reemerge as a party, separating itself from the PMDB, after this year's elections?

[Answer] We are not thinking about merger as a mere election alliance but as an alliance having broader and more permanent objectives.

[Question] But didn't you used to say that the MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] of former Governor Miguel Arraes was not yours and that your MDB was not that of Arraes?

[Answer] And it continues the same. The PMDB of Arraes is not mine and mine is not his. What keeps us in the same party organization is the party platform, which does not conflict directly with that of the PP. Above all, my differences with Miguel Arraes are in regard to principles, of an ideological nature, but I never had any problem with him of a moral or personal nature. We have always had a cordial relationship and I respect his activities as a public official, as a family man and as a respected former governor.

[Question] What would be the fundamental difference between your PMDB and that of Arraes?

[Answer] Purely ideological. Arraes is a man with socialist positions; he would like to see a much more profound change in Brazil's social order. I am a reformist; I think the nation needs social changes, but they must be made gradually.

[Question] Then you don't think Brazil needs sweeping changes?

[Answer] I think reforms must be made urgently, to a greater or lesser extent, in the administrative, political and social sectors.

[Question] What, for instance, would you change in the constitution to make these reforms?

[Answer] What now goes under the name of "constitution" is an amendment handed to the nation by a military junta that was never given political legitimacy to do this. And for that reason this constitution lacks the essential elements: legitimacy and legal authority. It must be replaced by another that really comes from the people so the people can respect it, honor it and defend it.

[Question] Is the economic regime of the current constitution good?

[Answer] No. The constitution adheres to the principle of nondelegability of power, a principle that has been abolished by all civilized peoples on this earth. The three powers are independent, complementary, but never transformed into airtight compartments. In the second place we have an excessively powerful executive branch in Brazil which chokes off the other branches. The judiciary has not yet found its proper role. And the legislative branch is struggling to recover its basic prerogatives, but this struggle has been in vain. Every time during the last 18 years that an effort has been made in Congress for the legislative branch to be a separate national power this effort is in vain because the executive branch prevents it and the legislative branch remains in this weakened position and even subordinate to the executive branch. We must create conditions for a social and economic order with fundamental changes. The economic regime in Brazil is supercapitalist and the social order suffers all the consequences of an ultracapitalist economic regime.

[Question] Couldn't merger jeopardize the current process of democratic transition when the presidential succession is at risk? The PP was considered a reliable opposition party. Will the new PMDB be also?

[Answer] The government will lose its majority in the electoral college only if it wishes to relinquish that majority. It has every means and every resource not only to retain its majority in the electoral college but also to expand it. This argument that the government could lose its majority doesn't convince anyone.

[Question] Could preparation of a new constitution be done according to the idea of Professor Afonso Arinos, who proposes the next Congress be given constituent powers and start the next session with a new charter? Or do you favor the idea of the PMDB to call a national constituent assembly?

[Answer] The most logical and appropriate solution would indeed be to call a national constituent assembly. But this proposal, which is ideal, cannot be carried out in Brazil. The first question that arises is: Who is going to call the constituent assembly? If we wait for it to be called by the president of the republic, as has been the historic tradition of Brazilian public law, it will never happen.

[Question] Why not?

[Answer] Because the constituent assembly would not be in the government's interest. If Congress is delegated authority to call the constituent assembly--and I contend, as does Professor Afonso Arinos, that Congress has the power to do so--a majority in Congress would have to agree upon constitutional reform and call the constituent assembly by legislative decree. But the government has a majority sufficient to prevent that from happening. In view of the impossibility, realistically speaking, of calling a constituent assembly in Brazil, we must adopt the procedure of using the Congress to be elected, which will have a very strong mandate, and grant it powers to prepare a new constitutional regime for Brazil. This would be legal and there is no reason, given the impossibility of doing it the ideal way, not to adopt what is really the most feasible. In this respect, I think Professor Afonso Arinos is entirely correct, since it is the only logical and politically realistic way of giving the nation a new constitution.

[Question] Members of the PP who oppose the merger, some of whom even want to challenge it, argue that the party leadership--you particularly--had short-run

objectives concerning the 1982 election outcome in mind, forgetting the role that the PP could play in the future.

[Answer] The PP was always a party with an important message for the future. Its most important commitment, however, is to the people. It is the commitment to restore a democratic regime, which can be done only by gaining power. There is no point in our going forth to plead, to preach a democratic regime, if there is no way to achieve it. We were established with a commitment to power and not to an ideal, as was the Liberation Party in the past.

[Question] You will be a member of the electoral college that will choose the next president of the republic. The names mentioned so far are those of Gen Otavio Medeiros, Vice President Aureliano Chaves, Ministers Leitaó de Abreu and Mario Andreazza, Senator Jarbas Passarinho, General Costa Cavalcanti, Governor Paulo Maluf, Deputy Ulysses Guimarães and Senator Tancredo Neves. Which of these would receive your vote?

[Answer] That is speculation. And if I were to answer on the basis of such speculation we would be entering the domain of futurology. It is entirely unpredictable what changes will appear in the Brazilian political situation by 1984. I would express my preference for president of the republic only under the circumstances in which such a decision would have to be made. But including my name in this group is purely speculative, without the slightest basis.

[Question] After this Sunday's convention the PMDB is likely to lose members, as has already occurred with the PP, thanks to Senator Murilo Badaro's amendment. Don't you fear a decrease in opposition forces?

[Answer] That is entirely mistaken. No one is leaving an opposition party for the government party. Anyone in an opposition party at this point who chooses the government party knows that he is politically doomed. Any change in the ranks of the PP and the PMDB as a result of the merger is in favor of another opposition party. Anyone of the opposition who uses this means of the open door of the PMDB and the PP to enter another party will not join the government party.

[Question] But there is that group that formerly belonged to the ARENA [National Renewal Alliance], joined the PP and now is not comfortable in the PMDB.

[Answer] They are the strongest advocates of merger, with the exception of Deputy Herbert Levy. Those who were formerly in the ARENA are the most vigorous proponents of merger.

'Middle Class Is as Important as Working Class'

[Question] In an interview with O GLOBO 2 weeks ago, Luiz Inacio da Silva, president of the PT [Workers Party], asserted that all opposition parties except the PT represent the conservative middle class. The only one that represents the working class, which is the largest segment of Brazilian society, is the PT. Do you agree?

[Answer] His remark, from his ideological viewpoint, is correct. But it is unfair to disparage the middle class in this way. The nation's middle class is just as

important to Brazil as is the working class, especially the middle class who are carrying the great responsibility of conducting our process of economic development and the Brazilian social process. It is as important as the working class for cohesion of national unity. There is a conservative middle class in Brazil but there is also a progressive and reformist middle class of considerable size and of great importance.

[Question] Who doublecrossed Deputy Jose Aparecido, choosing Deputy Helio Garcia for lieutenant governor on your slate?

[Answer] No one. I and all Minas Gerais PP members have the greatest admiration for Deputy Jose Aparecido. He is at this point performing the highest offices in the politics of Minas Gerais and elsewhere. Intelligent, dedicated, honest and dynamic.

[Question] Then why is he no longer a candidate?

[Answer] Because he never was a candidate. The unanimous choice of the state representatives and the federal representatives has always been Deputy Helio Garcia.

[Question] But it was reported that you had agreed to this arrangement with him.

[Answer] I never had any personal commitment with Deputy Jose Aparecido about lieutenant governor, just as I never raised any objection to his name.

[Question] Ideologically, do you support the capitalist system or do you also belong to the social democrat bloc?

[Answer] I am a social democrat, a reformist democrat of Christian persuasion. There is no place in Brazil for orthodox capitalism, reactionary capitalism, in today's world. Even if it were desired to adopt capitalism in Brazil, it would be a neocapitalist regime, but with humanitarian and social connotations. The European social democracies are the models we should adopt.

[Question] Would the French model, for example, be of interest to you?

[Answer] Yes, it would interest me, because Mitterand is a good Minas Gerais Social Democrat. We are much more progressive than he and his policy in many respects.

8834

CSO: 3001/90

UNFAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE RECORDED IN 1981 TRADE WITH AFRICA

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Feb 82 p 19

[Text] Despite all the effort at political rapprochement and promotion by the Foreign Ministry, Brazil recorded an unfavorable trade balance in its relations with Africa last year, according to final statistics prepared by the Foreign Trade Branch of the Bank of Brazil (CACEX), released yesterday.

According to the official figures, in 1981 the country's trade relations with Africa recorded a deficit of \$286 million. Countries in which the Foreign Ministry has concentrated its political activities, such as Angola, Nigeria, Algeria and Libya had considerable favorable balances in their exchange of goods with Brazil.

Thus, according to CACEX, last year Brazilian exports to Angola declined about 10 percent below the previous year, totaling \$106.9 million; and imports increased 41.2 percent, totaling \$155.9 million.

From Algeria, Brazil imported \$289.1 million compared to exports of \$267.3 million. Relations with Libya were the most unfavorable ones in Africa for Brazil, since goods were purchased from there in the amount of \$349.6 million and only \$10.7 million worth of national products were sold in that market. Nigeria was another important trade partner in that continent; however, there was relative balance in this exchange since purchases amounted to \$728.5 million and sales, \$770.2 million.

CACEX's figures show that Brazil considerably increased its sales to the various Latin American countries last year, with a favorable balance of over \$1 billion, compared to a favorable balance last year of \$751 million. A significant fact is that in 1981, there is an appreciable reduction in the exchange with Argentina, until that time the country that offered the best prospects for Brazilian exchange in the area.

According to CACEX, last year there was a reduction of 19.36 percent in exports to Argentina, with a total of \$880.2 million compared to \$1 billion in 1980.

In the Latin American area, noteworthy is a great increase in purchases in Venezuela, which increased from \$570.4 in 1980 to \$968.5 million in 1981 (in large part due to oil).

DECLINE IN 1981 GDP UNPRECEDENTED IN RECENT HISTORY

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Feb 82 p 17

[Text] The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined 3.5 percent last year, according to the estimate released officially by the Getulio Vargas Foundation in this month's issue of the magazine CONJUNTURA ECONOMICA.

In current cruzeiros, the Brazilian GDP in 1981 amounted to about 26.5 trillion cruzeiros, showing a decline of 963 billion cruzeiros compared with the GDP for 1980, taking the average inflation of the period into account.

This means that last year the country ceased to generate the equivalent of 963 billion cruzeiros in terms of goods and services. According to the economists, this is an "irreversible loss," inasmuch as tons of goods (machines, domestic electric appliances, food and other items) and an infinity of services ceased to be produced last year.

Unprecedented

The decline of the GDP is an unprecedented event in the recent economic history of the country. Since 1948, the date when the national accounts began to be calculated, Brazil had not shown such a poor economic performance. In all that period, the GDP had never shown a negative annual rate.

According to the Getulio Vargas Foundation, the decline of the GDP was directly influenced by the weak performance of some basic sectors of the economy.

Agriculture showed a growth rate of 6.8 percent last year but industry declined 8.4 percent during the same period compared to last year's performance. Commerce also showed a decline of 6 percent, while the transportation and communications sector grew 0.8 percent. The category "other activities," represented by tertiary activities (sector of 0.6 percent [as published]).

In calculating the GDP, industry is the major item (37.1 percent), followed by commerce (17.1 percent), agriculture (11 percent), and transportation and communications (5.5 percent). That group totals 70.7 percent of the weight structure of the GDP estimate formula. The remaining 29.3 percent is estimated on the basis of the performance of the other [sectors].

In this connection, the foundation explains that this part of the tertiary sector continues to be estimated with the "necessary qualifications as if its growth were induced by the agriculture and industrial sectors and part of the services activities."

Agriculture

The rate of growth of agriculture is defined as a combination of rates of 7.5 percent growth of farming and 5.8 percent expansion of animal production (livestock raising).

In the case of industry, the decline of 8.4 percent is the result of a combination of a rate of expansion of 1.7 percent observed in mining production, a decline of 9.6 percent in the processing industry, a decline of 8.1 percent in civil construction and in increase of 3.5 percent in the production of energy.

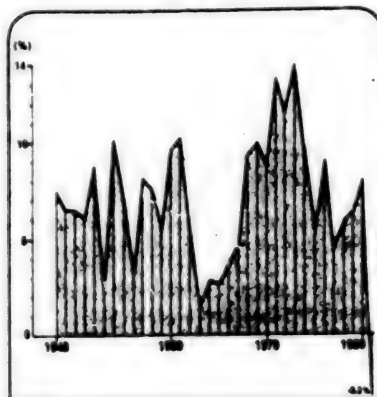
"With reference to commerce," the foundation document points out, "the rate of change (decline of 6 percent) was, as always, calculated indirectly on the basis of physical data for agricultural and industrial production and imports."

According to the document, various factors confirmed the results obtained in the calculation, citing, among others, the information on retail trade sales in Fortaleza, Rio de Janeiro, Greater Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre. In these cities, the decline recorded varies between 13 and 24 percent, discounting inflation for that period.

In the transportation and communications sector, according to the document, with the exception of road transportation, the rates of all the other subsectors are estimated on the basis of a physical standard resulting in completely objective data.

In the case of road transportation, the rate of minus 0.6 percent resulted from the actual consumption of tires compared with the apparent consumption of diesel oil and with the real collection of the tax on passenger and cargo road transportation services.

The First Decline of the GDP



Summary of the GDP

Agriculture	+6.8 percent
Commerce	-6.0 percent
Transportation and Communications	+0.8 percent
Industry	-8.4 percent

GOVERNMENT REACTION TO APPROVED PP-PMDB MERGER DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Mar 82 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas]

[Text] "The government defeated? How, if we increased our blocs in congress and will increase them further with the transfer of congressmen from the Popular Party (PP) and the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) to the Social Democratic Party (PDS)."

Those were the remarks made by Minister Leita0 de Abreu, chief of the Civilian Household, the night before last during a reception at the Portuguese Embassy, commenting on the decision of the Supreme Electoral Court taken a few minutes earlier in favor of merging the PP with the PMDB.

He calmly exchanged a few words with reporters and even with Senator Paulo Brossard of the opposition. He refrained from commenting on the merits of the electoral court's verdict, stressing that there were no doubts about the sovereignty of the Judiciary Branch and that it did not behoove the Executive Branch to make any comments in that regard. He again denied the imminence of new "packages" or changes in the rules of the electoral game, referring to the meeting held a little earlier in his office between the principal political aides of President Joao Figueiredo at which time it was determined that the government would not endorse proposals such as the enlarged district [distritao], the governor sub-slate [sublegenda], severing the total linkage of votes, or increasing the number of deputies.

The congress was and is sovereign to propose, examine and vote on those and other changes but they will not have official endorsement. As we reported yesterday, in the opinion of Leita0 de Abreu, the modifications planned pertain only to the law on free publicity on radio and television and of the need to assist the operation of the small parties. Incidentally, with regard to that report, it is necessary to make a correction: the meeting turned out not to be held with the presence of the president of the republic, who the day before had worked out with the chief of the Civilian Household and the minister of justice the strategy reported to the PDS.

The atmosphere in Brasilia Tuesday night and yesterday was one of cautious euphoria but no one ventured to predict that nothing would happen as a result of the decision of the Supreme Electoral Court. It so happens that Leita0 de Abreu and Ibrahim Abi-Ackel themselves, in denying the issuing of new "packages" made the reservations of "for the time being." It is equivalent to saying that

the matter may undergo changes, just as it may ebb into what represents an obvious victory for the opposition. If the government has also gained with the adherence of Magalhaes Pinto, Marcondes Gadelha, Lucia Viveiros and others, just as it gained with the transfer of PMDB sectors to the small labor parties, the PP and the PMDB has gained much more despite the defections. As of the day before yesterday, a solid congressional and election bloc has been consolidated that is in a position to vie for and to win the majority of the future state governorships and the majority in the future congress. The polls will decide if they are not "packaged" again, but the radius of the opposition has undeniably increased.

While there is cautious euphoria over the merger and over the first calm reaction, there is also perplexity in the Federal Capital, and anticipation. Because how can one imagine that apparent accommodation by the holders of power to be definite if up to a few days ago they bared tooth and nail at the action of the PP and the PMDB? One should not forget--nor should it become a dead letter--for example, the statement conveyed to the newspapers by Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila, to the effect that the opposition was on a collision course with the government. Similarly, how can one forget the revolutionary dogma that power cannot pass to the opposition except sectorially, if the party resulting from the merger ventures to get half plus one of the members of the future congress? Would there be formulas for that majority to be neutralized before it began to produce effects, if it should become a fact; but who is going to guarantee if?...

Experience demonstrates the "theory of reaction," that is, for each sovereign act practiced by the opposition capable of jeopardizing the stability of the "system," there have been much greater, much stronger and draconian contrary actions by the government.

Will Minister Leitao de Abreu succeed in making his reaction prevail in palace councils? Will President Joao Figueiredo not also be left at the mercy of other concepts, one of them being that liberalization has gone too fast and threatens to destabilize the "system"? When he was defeated in the proposal to reestablish the governor substate, the chief executive reacted like a tiger, imposing the November "package," banning party coalitions and the total linkage of votes. The merger emerged as a response and who will guarantee that the counterresponse is not being prepared in the contriving spirit that has been governing the regime since 1964?

The presidential message to congress read Monday expresses the government's intention to calm feelings, to achieve national reconciliation yearned for up to now. There would not be a better opportunity for General Figueiredo to pass from theory to practice, assimilating the gesture practiced by the PP and the PMDB and now confirmed by the court. After all, it has always been said that the president is a man of regulations and of law, and the merger does nothing more than follow laws and regulations.

For all those reasons, feelings vary, from cautious euphoria by the opposition as a whole to anticipation by the whole nation, but including the perplexity that may be spreading in the government. There is no reason to doubt that its

members did not expect the Supreme Electoral Court's decision the day before yesterday. They had imagined that the merger would be blocked in the court, but since it was not, there are two courses: the one mentioned by the chief of the Civilian Household, of respect for the law but capable of evolving toward new measures of defense of the PDS; or the one feared by the 120 million scalded cats that we have become, [from the saying: "a scalded cat fears the cold water"], of the so-called "revolutionary interest." It is obvious that nobody presumes there will be retreats in the manner of those that occurred in 1965 and 1968, of Institutional Act-2 (AI-2) and Institutional Act-5 (AI-5). But between the maximum and the minimum there are varied gradations, just as between the before and after there is the "during." It is that period that country has begun to pass through since the proclamation of the merger victory by 4 votes to 2 in the Superior Electoral Court. The next few days will be decisive.

One note regarding the session of the day before yesterday: there were three votes in favor of the merger and two against. Justice Souza Andrade, who could give the victory to the PP-PMDB or defeat the opposition action, was voting. If he voted against the merger, the tie would lead to the president of the court, Moreira Alves, casting the deciding vote, and the latter would be in favor of defeating it, as maintained by the attorney general of the republic. Until the final pages of his statement, it gave one impression. In the last 20 lines it revealed another, to the satisfaction of Ulysses Guimaraes and Tancredo Neves.

8711

CSO: 3001/88

ECONOMIC RECOVERY DELAYED UNTIL 1983

PY192353 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 82 p 17

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--After admitting that "this is not yet the proper time to accelerate the economy," Industry and Commerce Minister Camilo Pena said yesterday that the priority objective of the government's economic policy is to improve the foreign current accounts situation and that "the government will not give up this objective since it is a priority issue."

Pena, who was honored with a luncheon at the Gloria Hotel by businessmen from all national sectors--among whom were the presidents of the Confederation of Industries, of the commercial and business associations, and the presidents of several chambers of industry (including those of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro), and the finance sector--gave little hope for a strong business recovery before 1983.

Regarding the recent behavior of the economy, he noted that there have been some difficulties which he mainly attributed to "foreign restrictions." However, noting that there were some positive facts, he said: "Despite a negative growth in 1981, our GDP was about \$250 billion, one of the 10 largest in the world. This negative GDP growth had a positive impact since it represented a decrease in superfluous consumption and an effective increase in production. Moreover, we can expect about an average 5-percent increase in the 1980-1982 period. "This means that Minister Camilo Pena is expecting that 1982 GDP growth will be over 1 percent, which means a fall in per capita income for the second consecutive year.

He added: "Although the private sector invested less in 1981, investments have already started to pick up in 1982. Furthermore, the gradual completion of large government undertakings will release savings that will then be absorbed by private investments. The profits of the manufacturing and business sectors dropped in 1981, but since they were carrying over high profits from 1980, the overall profit of the private sector in 1981--including the financial system--was not as bad as they appear to be in the balance sheets that were published."

The industry minister noted that "we are experiencing a period in which high interest rates transfer profits from the productive system to the financial system." Sidestepping this controversial topic he said: "I have said that a public debate between these two important private sectors should be avoided and I believe that a great effort is being made to decrease the 'spreads' [given in English] to achieve a better balance between the two sectors and a better stability in the private business sector."

He noted: "Although it is true that the increase in interest rates is affected by foreign debts and the low capitalization of Brazilian enterprises, I also see that intelligent shareholders of important banks are allocating part of their profits to activities linked to export and imports and are participating in enterprises in the productive sector. Moreover, international agencies of some banks are attracting risk capital to start joint ventures in Brazil."

In his speech Pena also gave some estimates on activities related to his ministry. He said that "the BNDE [the National Economic Development Bank] will invest about 550 billion cruzeiros. Exports supervised by the MIC [Ministry of Industry and Commerce] such as coffee, sugar, alcohol and steel must generate more than \$4.5 billion in 1982. In addition, we should obtain \$1.5 billion from tourism and about \$4.5 billion from the BEFIEEX [Commission for the Concession of Fiscal Benefits to Special Export Programs]. In the iron and steel industry expansion program, we should invest about 300 billion cruzeiros, and about 170 billion cruzeiros in the PROALCOOL [Alcohol Production Program] and Conserve [expansion unknown] programs. Moreover, the PROBOR 3 program, which aims to make Brazil into a self-sufficient rubber-producing country, starts this decade."

Regarding MIC initiatives to promote technology, he said that soon he will hold a meeting "with Brazilian industrial leaders to discuss the establishment of a set of regulations, industrial norms and quality control rules because the country must overcome deficiencies in this area."

CSO: 3001/99

PRC WANTS TO INCREASE BILATERAL TRADE

PY171921 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portugese 12 Mar 82 p 26

[Text] Brazilian-PRC trade in 1981 totaled \$400 million but the Chinese Government is striving to increase its bilateral trade with Brazil, according to what the PRC Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Lu Xuzhang said yesterday at a meeting with businessmen of the Sao Paulo Confederation of Industries. The Chinese delegation that is in Brazil to attend the meetings of the Brazilian-Chinese Joint Commission, visited Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] yesterday and today will visit Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and the Vale do Rio Doce Company in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting with the Sao Paulo Confederation of Industries was attended by representatives from the Chinese imports and exports departments and on the Brazilian side by businessmen of the Brasilinvest office in Beijing, the Cacique Cafe Soluvel, Enteco Empreendimentos Tecnicos, Fundicao Brasil, Manasa, Nagels, Panambra, Persico Pisamiglio, Temag and others.

According to the vice minister, the PRC Government is making administrative reforms to decrease the number of ministries, simplify the bureaucratic structure and improve the effectiveness of trade. Lu noted that the meeting of the joint commission was a complete success and that this visit enabled him to observe the advanced stage of Brazilian technology. However, he declined to comment on an alleged interest in purchasing services and technology in the hydroelectric sector.

CSO: 3001/99

BRIEFS

POLITICAL REVENGE--Navy Minister Eduardo da Silva Fonseca Maximiano made a warning on possible revenge in the political sphere. After stating that there have already been cases of revenge and there could be more the minister advised those persons who have suffered justly or unjustly to forget what may have been done. He then voiced his hope that things will end happily and added that there are criminals who have murdered persons at large and who still enjoy their political rights and are candidates for many things. The minister reviewed President Joao Figueredo's 3 years of governing which in his opinion has been characterized by an important issue: the new air of freedom which has reigned throughout his term in office. The minister, however, excused himself from referring to the Rio Centro case by stating: let bygones be bygones. [Text] [PY181258 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Mar 82]

PERUVIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF--General Luis Sipan, joint staff chief of the Air Defense Command of Peru, is in Sao Jose Dos Campos, Sao Paulo State, visiting the flight protection institute which is subordinate to the Air Force Ministry. Peru has just invited bids for the purchase of equipment to modernize its air traffic control system, and the Brazilian company Tecnasa is participating. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 81 p 7 PY]

ROK BUYS USED PLANES--A delegation of South Korean officers is supervising the shipment of 42 Cessna T-37 planes which the Brazilian Air Force auctioned last year. These are training planes which had to be replaced because their operation was too costly. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 7 PY]

GOLD PRODUCTION--The National Department of Mineral Production has predicted that for this year reported gold production will be 19.5 tons. Actual production is predicted at 36.5 tons. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Feb 82 p 1 PY]

MINERAL RESERVE IN AMAZONAS--The National Department of Mineral Production has announced that satellite-surveying made possible the discovery of deposits of cassiterite (tin ore), monazite, gold, xenotime, tourmaline and topaz in the municipality of Nova Airao, in the northwest upper Rio Negro region of Amazonas. The deposits sit on a 100,000 square kilometer expanse. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 82 p 1 PY]

CSO: 3001/99

HAVANA TELEVISION COMMENTS ON U.S. SALVADORAN POLICY

FL122032 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1241 GMT 12 Mar 82

["Discussion" by Roberto Agudo, of "Revista de la Manana" television program, and Javier Rodriguez, of the PRENSA LATINA staff--live]

[Text] [Agudo] Good morning, comrades. The latest news reports call for a discussion of the situation in El Salvador once more, considering, especially, the latest steps taken by Mr Reagan and his advisors. Up to now, it appeared that the leader of the clique now governing in Washington was betting on a single alternative in El Salvador. In other words, the election of 28 March. But it does not seem so now. In a more or less covert manner, other alternatives are planned, ranging from the postponement of the election for a certain period of time which could be lengthy, according to some commentators, to direct intervention by the United States or through other countries including Latin American countries. It must be pointed out that these Latin American countries, according to a report we have just heard, include Argentina. The Paraguayan ambassador in Washington, unasked, said Paraguay--Alfredo Stroessner--was ready to send troops to El Salvador. And the aid, mostly economic and some weapons, that Venezuela has offered and gives to the Salvadoran regime is no secret.

To mention another example--by way of an introduction, of mentioning a fact to be used in subsequent analysis, among others--there is the sudden brief visit by Gen Abdul Gutierrez, the current vice president of El Salvador, to the U.S. capital and his secret, albeit known, meetings with Messrs Reagan, Haig, some high-ranking CIA officials and a few Latin American officers attached to embassies in Washington, as well as the current Latin American tour of one Mr Haig's main lieutenants, Thomas Enders. He has already been to Argentina, Chile and he begun his announced and unpublicized tour in Venezuela. I believe these are some of the facts to be analyzed in the course of this discussion. Comrade Javier Rodriguez has the floor.

[Rodriguez] Yes, Roberto, the Salvadoran issue is of permanent news interest. This does not mean there are no other important news we could comment on as for example, the coup attempt in Suriname, the NATO maneuvers off Florida today, in short, all the events that make up the tense and convulsive

situation in our continent. What is happening in El Salvador is the touchstone for any comprehensive analysis of the situation in all of America. We see that the turn of events in El Salvador has led the United States into a real dead end. It has shown that the situation of the Salvadoran regime grows increasingly desperate and that the crisis of U.S. policy in El Salvador is getting more so. The stubbornness of the United States in refusing to support a negotiated solution, a political situation to the Salvadoran situation, has brought it to a dead end. At this time, according to all reports, the news you have just heard, armed struggle constantly intensifies and heavy fighting is reported in departmental capitals such as San Miguel, San Vicente, Chalatenango and others. In fact, some of them were twice attacked by the FMLN forces in recent days. Control of important highways, sabotage of power plants, destruction of roads which are used by the military forces, are all events taking place regularly in El Salvador (?these days) which demonstrate the ground control of the Salvadoran guerrillas. It must also be said before we go into this analysis further that the enormous economic and military aid the U.S. Government has given to the Jose Napoleon Duarte regime has had little or no effect unless you count keeping him in power at the expense of much more blood and sacrifice for the Salvadoran people. But it has meant little for the military victory they were supposed to win over the Salvadoran revolutionaries.

Proof of what is happening in El Salvador is the continued failures of the so-called military offensive that have taken place in recent months one after the other in the various Salvadoran provinces. They have taken place in San Vicente, Morazan. Morazan in special has been the scene of this kind of military offensive with thousands of soldiers, huge amounts of equipment and a great expenditure of resources by the armed forces with the object of annihilating the rebel forces. [word indistinct], an offensive is launched, a satisfactory report is issued and a few hours later, the guerrilla attacks intensify in that very spot and the guerrillas demonstrate their control. I believe that this definitively shows what happens in these military operations: the victims, thousands, are to be found among the peasants and the civilian population who are the ones suffering the repression of the army.

Added to this is the almost generalized international repudiation not only of the Salvadoran regime's criminal activities but also of the electoral farce that was [as heard] being staged for the 28th as Roberto was saying earlier.

As is only logical, all of this has produced a crisis in that very electoral process. The strategists of the CIA and the State Department are a bit unsure what to do now about this election in which no one believes, no serious person will take part and no one wants to vote. Of course, the international community, world opinion has no hopes at all for a so-called electoral solution to the Salvadoran situation. The election of the 28th

is a sort of hot potato in the hands of the Salvadoran regime and the State Department and now all these presumed solutions are beginning to emerge, from a 60-day postponement of the election to other solutions, including changes or a kind of coup d'etat bringing about a change in the military leadership of the Salvadoran regime in order to try to clean up a little the image of that government which no one believes in. Were you going to say something?

[Agudo] Yes, Javier. In connection with what you just said about the election, and setting aside for now the encouragement the rigged election in Guatemala gave to the oligarchs, gorillas and imperialists, it is no secret to anyone that the scheduled election in El Salvador is experiencing a crisis.

Despite the political and military pressures with their corresponding threats of invasion and increased espionage activities, the White House gentlemen apparently do not want, do not wish and cannot even afford to play the electoral card. Everything was ready. In fact, I was reading the surprising report that it had been officially announced that there were an estimated 2 million voters in El Salvador, a figure which is stupidly exaggerated as one reporter said, if you take into account the simple fact that the entire population of El Salvador is 1.4 million. Even the permitted opposition, that is, the political groups that are just as reactionary as the one in power, protested because the electoral masquerade no longer offers any possibilities for any one, not even to the acolytes of the Christian Democratic-military junta.

[Rodriguez] This is an election where no electoral lists exist, not even basic data to know who is going to vote, and how many. In other words, this is just a big sham which, of course, does not constitute a solution. In addition, the 60-day postponement itself which some sectors are proposing as an alternative, basically seeks to disarm the resistance, the revolutionary opposition, to try to bring a hiatus to the Salvadoran's growing struggle against the junta. This was recently denounced by the FMLN. That is the maneuver lurking behind the alleged postponement. If they really wanted a solution, they would have to definitively suspend the election and undertake serious negotiations, negotiations leading to a political solution, and not have a 60-day postponement which amounts to what I was just telling you. Another maneuver is to try to make only a surface change in the regime with new figures in the military hierarchy, a change of figures, replacing one assassin with another in the military hierarchy.

[Agudo] Even the Salvadoran press itself had to report on what the opposition parties were saying because these contradictions in the representative democracy game are obvious. They say that for the estimated 2 million voters, the Salvadoran regime resurrected dead people, and even included the unborn. We must mention that for the past four decades, a repressive oligarchy represented by the so-called 14 families who control almost all the wealth--what the Americans leave behind--has ruled in this country, which is approximately the size of Camaguey.

In closing, I would like to go back to a point you had made regarding the military question. It concerns Mr Haig's latest statement, which was broadcast by the Voice of America, that the Salvadoran regime could not survive without U.S. military, political and economic aid.

[Rodriguez] That is one of the few true things he has said.

[Agudo] That's right. And this reminds us that a very small part of the U.S. press has reported that Mr Reagan is changing his stand on sending U.S. troops to El Salvador. But the plot can be uncovered right away without looking too far. The U.S. press itself discloses some elements behind this alleged shift in the present administration. Several factors emerge which we have already analyzed. Firstly, that it is an attempt to block what is already emerging as growing opposition from the U.S. Congress. Secondly, it tries to calm the U.S. public who see in El Salvador a new Vietnam, and with it, the sad return of Americans in plastic bags, the dead of the Vietnam war. It has not been able to forget that sight. Thirdly, that the polls show that 19 of every 20 Americans are against Mr Reagan's policy in Central America and the Caribbean. Fourthly, that the Pentagon, the true power behind Mr Reagan, no longer is so sure that it can win a quick military victory in El Salvador. These are some of the elements.

[Rodriguez] In short, this is the dead end we were talking [about] earlier.

CSO: 3010/1091

FIDEL CASTRO ADDRESSES MEDICAL STUDENTS

FL160315 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 2007 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro to the first contingent of the Carlos J. Finlay Medical Sciences Detachment established during a ceremony at Havana's Karl Marx Theater on 12 March--recorded]

[Text] Comrades, we were all a bit impatient for this moment to arrive, the establishment of the first Carlos J. Finlay Medical Sciences Detachment which is taking place precisely this 12 March, on the eve of the glorious anniversary of the attack on the Presidential Palace, a heroic page in history written by our students. We had first thought of establishing the detachment on 13 March, this first detachment. But, since it coincides with tomorrow's celebrations, we decided to schedule it several hours ahead. But we did choose this date in honor of 13 March.

We have held many and very important ceremonies in this theater. Many of them historic. We have met with students many times. Sometimes, when a detachment is set up. Other times, when the students graduate as was the case with the pedagogical detachment. Sometimes because they graduated in the first group, and other times because they graduated in the second group. At times, the new detachments coincided with the graduation of those from the first group, the graduation of those from the second group. Of course, each one of those moments has been filled with a lot of joy, has meant a great thrill for us.

But I had the feeling that today was going to be a truly special day. Not a few people have been working hard for whole months to get this result. We could say thousands--state, party, youth and student cadres--spent a lot of time and dedication on the task of establishing the detachment. I believe that never was a selection process preceded by so much dedication, so much effort. They all gave this task its true importance. The results, the fruits that this effort will bring to our country...it was not easy to set up the detachment but it was essential that we do so.

It is a fact that all ideas are preceded by other ideas. The idea preceding the establishment of this medical sciences detachment was the pedagogical detachment, which helped the country to solve a very difficult problem when

there was an explosion in the number of middle-level students. We have spoken of this on other occasions. We recall those days when we faced the prospect of hundreds of thousands of middle-level students, when there were the first indications of the results of the revolution's educational efforts, when there were hundreds of thousands graduating from sixth grade, when we had only a few hundred of teachers in the universities at the time--200 or 300. We could say that the teaching vocation had been lost then. The pedagogical detachment was a movement that arose from our youth and our students. It came to be a brilliant answer to the need that arose. Without that effort, without that detachment, we would not have teachers for our secondary and pre-university schools.

At the time, we still could not say that 100 percent of the teachers had teaching degrees. There were times when 70 percent had no degrees. The creation of the detachment generated a great movement toward improvement and study. The number of students joining the pedagogical detachment rose, first those with 9th grade, later with 12th grade education. I do not remember if it was 9th or 10th grade. Afterwards, the ones with 12th grade.

A large number of elementary school teachers also began to study, to become secondary school teachers. Thanks to them, we now have tens of thousands of middle-level teachers. We have enough personnel to organize improvement courses, enough personnel to give internationalist assistance in the area of education to other countries. Our educational system and our revolution owes a great deal to the pedagogical detachment. We have had experience in this kind of thing.

We were seeing in the area of medical education that it was necessary to enroll a high number of students because of the country's growing needs both nationally and internationally. Our youth has always liked a medical career. It enjoys great social esteem. It has a lot of prestige. It was not difficult to recruit students for a medical career. The number was high but the selection was not the best. Since there was a large number of vacancies for a medical career, there were some students who applied for other curricula first and listed medicine as their third choice. When they were not admitted into the other curricula, they enrolled in medicine. Sometimes students with low academic averages enrolled in medicine. And there is no doubt that to study medicine you really need vocation, a strong desire to study medicine, a preference for medicine over any other career. And, of course, 4,000 enrolled and then they came up against the courses which required study, dedication. What is known as academic mortality began to occur. We found that in the first 2 years, sometimes there was a 30 or 40 percent academic mortality rate; a high drop-rate. Of course, the really good students stayed, those who had a higher average, more will, more dedication to their work. But, in the end, less than 50 percent of the students who enrolled in medical school graduated.

Added to this was a growing demand for doctors in our country and outside our country. This country still has a big demand for doctors. You know that we have asked doctors to give up the post-duty rest and work the

maximum number of hours. In addition, the doctor is the kind of professional which we will hardly have too many of. I believe that there can never be too many doctors. It is logical that each merchant ship has its own doctor. It is logical that each factory has its own doctor. It is logical that each school has its own doctor. In fact, in my opinion, it would be logical that each block had its own doctor. Everyone feels safer when they have a doctor nearby. Everyone. I bet there is a doctor here tonight. Every time there is a public ceremony, there are doctors, ambulances, etc. When a delegation leaves the country, generally, if possible, it takes a doctor along. We have seen many delegations and whenever possible they travel with a doctor.

So, there will never be too many doctors. But our problem is not just that. We are a revolutionary country, a country that belongs to the Third World, a country which increasingly develops relations of cooperation with those countries of the Third World. Sometimes cooperation is on an economic basis because they ask to acquire medical services from us. But since they are very poor countries, they often request assistance in the form of a donation. That is why our country at present has more than 2,000 health workers, more than 2,000 doctors, helping in 26 countries. And the demand grows. Our country has been asked for thousands and thousands of doctors for one reason or another, and we really cannot meet that growing demand for doctors.

And there are even some developed countries that need doctors; rich and developed countries that need doctors. Even the United States, which is considered the richest country in the world, takes away doctors from other countries every year. We have the case of many doctors who get their degrees in Latin American countries who then do not render services in their own countries and emigrate. Despite this, there are places in those developed countries--peasant, rural areas--which do not have doctors. Unfortunately, many African students who study in Paris, London, Portugal, etc., do not return to their countries.

The need for doctors in the world is enormous, even in developed countries. Because it is not a matter of the number of doctors only, it is a matter of the kind of doctor. There were not a few doctors in this country at the triumph of the revolution. There were around 6,000. Many of them were unemployed and they emigrated. There was total lack of health care in the country. Therefore, there were not many job opportunities. Rural medicine did not exist at all. Most of the doctors were concentrated in the capital. Of course, there was only one school of medicine, that of Havana, and many of those students who came to Havana did not want to go back home in any case. The doctors were concentrated in the capital. Numbers are not enough. It is the kind of doctor that counts, whether he is a doctor willing to go to the interior, to go to the rural areas, to go anywhere he is needed. And I feel that in general the world has not solved that problem. The socialist countries have. The rest of the world has not. They often do not have the kind of (?doctor) they need within the country itself, although they might have doctors living in the capital. But nothing can get them to move to the interior.

Therefore, the demand for medical services is one of the greatest in the world and, in addition, one of the most (?felt) because the infant mortality rates, the rates that reflect the state of health in the world are terrible. It is hard to think of a science, a profession of which there is more need in the world today. Our country has really fulfilled glorious tasks in this field. Of the 6,000 doctors, as you probably have heard, only 3,000 stayed on. The others emigrated. We had to face the task of training new doctors. Despite this, our country's health index today is the best in all the Third World--and they are more than 100 countries--and as high as in any of the developed countries of the world. An indication of this is the drop in infant mortality rates to less than 19 in the first year of life. Our achievements are really impressive. It is a source of pride for our people and our revolution that our health workers are serving in 26 countries. The growing prestige of our doctors is a source of pride for our fatherland.

But should we be satisfied, if we are fully conscious that we can give our people much better medical services? If we are fully conscious that we can give the most suffering of mankind important medical services? If we are fully conscious that we can develop medical science? If we are fully conscious that in the area of tropical medicine, in the area of medicine and disease affecting most of mankind, we could accumulate as much or even greater knowledge than any other country of the world? Then, we cannot feel satisfied with what we have achieved so far.

It is precisely our patriotic consciousness, our socialist consciousness, our communist consciousness and our internationalist consciousness which requires the effort that we are making. We summed this up at the health workers congress in recent months in a single phrase: that our country could become a medical power. But this is not a matter of human vanity, chauvinism. It would not be worth our efforts. The purpose would be for our country to have, first of all, one of the best health services in the world. Secondly, to give augmented cooperation to other nations. Or, if you want, we can put it into different terms: to give augmented cooperation in the area of health to the world and at the same time have one of the best health services in the world for our people. Because, undoubtedly, if we become a world power, the first beneficiary will be our own people.

Of course, this requires an enormous effort. The establishment of the detachment is only part of an enormous effort in all areas. It implies a great effort in the development of all branches of medicine in our country without exception. It implies a progressive improvement of all our country's medical services. It implies a great teaching effort, not only at the university level but at the post-graduate level, the training of the specialists. And this is not all; there is even the possibility of advanced studies for those who could be considered already full-fledged doctors.

An example would be cardiovascular surgery. Many Cubans still have to go abroad every year because cardiovascular surgery facilities are not sufficiently developed in our country. And we propose to develop cardiovascular surgery to the utmost. There is a [word indistinct] percentage of children who are born with certain problems, persons who have problems-- they must be taken care of. Another very important field is ophthalmology. To the extent that we master the most modern techniques and study ophthalmology in depth and that we can give service to other countries, it means that our country will make a great deal of progress in that branch of medicine. It would mean a great benefit for our people. I have only cited two examples. I could cite 20, 30.

Medical science is constantly developing as a result of experience, research, new methods and new techniques. We have to learn those techniques. It requires a great effort in international relations and exchanges, so we can find out what country is more advanced in this, what country is more advanced in that, and have ongoing exchanges just so that we can assume vanguard positions in each of the branches of medicine.

However, we have an advantage. No other country has the number of doctors which Cuba has working in the Third World and in such a variety of countries. Well, Cuba has more doctors working in the Third World than the World Health Organization. It is logical that we have been able to acquire a lot of experience in everything related to tropical medicine. And we already have a tropical medicine institute in full development, and undoubtedly it will become an important center in the world.

For this reason, I said that a great effort was necessary in many areas to achieve these objectives. However, it was also necessary to make a great effort in the teaching area. How were our doctors being trained? If we want to have vanguard doctors, it is necessary to have a vanguard training, education and teaching. Of course, the revolution has established the practice of having teaching be linked to the medical services. Practically, all the main hospitals in the country are teaching hospitals. This helps to improve medical services, since in each hospital there are university professors. When a hospital becomes a teaching hospital, then our doctors are trained with a great link to medical practice.

This is an interesting experience which has helped us, but in this area there are still many points which can be improved. One of the tasks that was being done was a meticulous and thorough analysis of everything related to medical teaching in our country. Thousands of persons participated in this analysis, thousands of persons. Talks were held with thousands of doctors and professors. All aspects of medical teaching in our country, all the problems, all the difficulties were analyzed. This analysis was recently ended. Now we have to study the study; we have to analyze the analysis and the conclusions of all the comrades who worked on it. We plan to benefit greatly from it. This means that we are analyzing everything, for the purpose of placing medical teaching in our country in first place and in a vanguard position. This study helps us greatly to see all the kinds of problems, all kinds: regarding the programs, materials and situations; the procedure of teaching

in hospitals; the care given to students and how it is carried out; the role of the youths and the role of the Federation of University Students, and so on; all problems in general, including the problems of materials, the situation in the laboratories, of the texts, audio-visual means and so on. This means that from such a study we will reach many conclusions and many ideas regarding the improvement of medical teaching.

However, there is a fundamental question: The selections of the students who are going to study medicine. We began by stating that there were two activities which had a great importance for society and for the country: education and health. A teacher and a professor have a great responsibility. However, a health worker and a doctor have an even greater responsibility. A doctor deals with human life, human health. A doctor has the immense, the infinite responsibility of taking care of the lives of human beings, of a child, of an old person, of a youth, of an adult, of a woman and of a man, who places himself in the doctor's hands to find relief from a pain or an illness or to save his life. This is a great responsibility. It is difficult to find a greater responsibility than that of a health worker and a doctor. The same is true of those who make the analyses in laboratories: if he makes a mistake in the analysis, if he does not make a correct analysis, if the analysis is no good. Despite all the means which medicine has to fight illnesses, if the necessary quality is not there, then the diagnosis may be mistaken and the results will be catastrophic. All the health workers have a great responsibility, but the responsibility of a doctor is even greater, because he is the one who: has to guide all the efforts, he has to analyze all factors, he has to make a diagnosis and he has to act to solve a problem.

Therefore, it is necessary to choose among the best of our students, the ones having the best qualities--intellectual and academic, political and moral, yes political and moral [he repeats himself] qualities--to study medicine. A lumpen cannot be a doctor, neither can a delinquent or a person capable of committing fraud, capable of deceiving. That is to say to be a doctor, it is necessary to have an exquisite sensibility, a great human quality, a great intellectual ability, and an unyielding morality. In this area no kind of concessions can be made. If we say that the university is for the revolutionaries, then the medical student must be especially revolutionary, because if it were not so then society could not put its sons, its relatives, its citizens in his hands. This was a basic idea in the question of the training of the detachment. We wanted to make a good selection. If we have not made a good selection or if we do not make a good selection, then we have failed.

We believe we have made a good selection, but it was not easy to make a good selection. And do you know why it was not easy? Not because there were many bad students, but on the contrary, because there were many, many good students with magnificent qualities. It is difficult to choose a number of students among many good students. That was the situation we experienced.

In the first place, as a beginning after the appeal to form the detachment, many students volunteered themselves, demonstrating again the attitude of our students and their spirit. In our judgment, this is true of our youths. In our judgment, they are in the vanguard in the revolutionary struggle, for our satisfaction, fulfilling the desire that the new generation be more revolutionary than the past generation. The students gave the expected response, and 14,271 out of 40,979 pre-university students volunteered to join. And we had to choose less than 4,000, to choose 3,800, around 3,800 students.

You all know the process. The first necessary requirement was made: academic standing and record, average grades. This was a necessary requirement. We had to begin to choose out of the 14,271, which is more than one-third of the total of pre-university students. Meetings were organized in the classrooms, meetings to evaluate the political and moral qualities, and of course to evaluate the academic qualities also. Of these 14,000, 6,000 were not recommended for the simple reason that they had less than a 90-point average grade. We began by excluding those students who had an average grade of less than 90 points. There were around 6,000 such students. For other reasons around 900, about 982 students were excluded. The comrades in each classroom themselves evaluated the students in the meetings.

A more democratic method cannot have been chosen, because not one student has been chosen at random, not one. The students evaluated their classroom comrades. Now, the majority of those not evaluated, I mean not recommended--they were evaluated but not recommended--was because they had an average grade of less than 90. In this manner, 90 became the minimum limit to enter the detachment. For other reasons 982 were excluded.

After the evaluation process came the individual interviews. Thousands of doctors in the country participated in the individual interviews to analyze the vocation and the qualities of each student. In this way, of the 6,640 students accepted, who passed the past process--I mean of the 7,289 recommended students who had to pass the interview and analysis, 411 were not chosen. The majority of them were not chosen because of a lack of vocation or because of bad political training. In this manner, 6,640 remained who passed all the tests, and of them we had to choose 3,807, that is practically half still had to be chosen. Therefore, it was the record, exclusively the academic standing which determined the selection. You must understand that in those more than 3,000 cases, around (?3,000) who were not chosen, there were great students, very good students with a very good record and with very good political and moral qualities to be a doctor. We have chosen 3,807 out of 6,640 who had all the necessary requirements. However, it was necessary to consider one element, and that was the academic standing. The detachment was chosen in this manner.

However, I still have to explain one point which had an important role in the selection. Perhaps it was the point which caused us the most trouble, which made us think more, which concerned us most. This was a situation,

which is the following: there is a majority of girls in the pre-university schools, in the first place. In the second place, there is a majority of girls who prefer, who have a vocation for medicine and prefer medicine. And in the third place, girls usually have a better record than boys. When we saw the good records of these 6,640, we found a phenomenon which is quite worrisome: which was that sticking exclusively to the numbers, 67 percent were women and 33 percent were men. This was the first great surprise. This problem was thoroughly examined.

It was not a matter of training doctors only for our country. I say sincerely that if it had been a matter of only this, we would have been happy with the 67 percent and the 33 percent. However, it was a matter of the training of doctors, not only with our needs in mind, but also with international cooperation in mind. We need doctors for the armed forces, and we need doctors for international cooperation. It is not that women will not participate in international cooperation, but in truth, it was worrisome that about 70 percent of the doctors compared with 30 percent would be women. This was greatly analyzed, greatly analyzed and we reached the conclusion that the ideal would be that there be a more or less equal proportion of women and men.

Taking into account all the objectives which our country's medicine has in mind, we reached that conclusion. Therefore, the principle of absolute equality was not adopted among the students who were to be chosen. It was necessary to establish quotas, because if we stuck only to the records, then the women were in the majority. This is good on one hand, if we consider that a majority of the students at the higher level are women, and if we analyze the role which women are achieving in our society. It was decided to establish a quota to select the 3,807 of the 6,640, and this was a quota of 55 percent women and 45 percent men. In this manner women were still in the majority with around 20 percent more. Don't go by the numbers of 45 to 55. Figure it out correctly. This means that there are around 20 percent more women. The quota was like this: to try to be the most just possible within realities which could not be ignored, within the needs of all the objectives of our medicine, to seek more or less an equal proportion of men and women in medicine. For example, let us look how the proportion of doctors who are men and women is in some countries. In Czechoslovakia 58 percent are men and 42 women; in Sweden 80 percent are men, 20 percent are women; in Japan 90 percent are men and 10 percent women; in the FRG 79 percent are men; in Poland 52 percent; in England 80 percent; and in Yugoslavia 65 percent. At present in Cuba it is 64 percent men and 36 percent women.

I think that these measures we have adopted will tend to make equal in the future the number of men and women. The ideal, even, would be to send married couples who are doctors to fulfill internationalist missions. However, I do not become involved in this. [laughter] I only say [shouts of "tell us"]...I only say that this would be the ideal thing. But we do not become involved in this. I only say that an equal proportion is necessary.

Of course there is the fact that women have obligations and tasks, above all related to the family and children, which men do not have. That is because they have the task of human reproduction, a very fundamental role. Experience shows that they have greater difficulties in determining their tasks. And for this reason we thought it would be more convenient to have a more or less equal number of women and men students.

Now we are going to follow closely, we are going to investigate how girls study in the university, how the boys study, how the women doctors work--women doctors I guess you call them, it is probably necessary to clear this up also--how the men doctors work. I have already heard said that there is a better doctor-patient relationship with women doctors. We have heard this. We must continue to study all this. But there arise a greater number of major problems, because as you all know despite the family code, when a child becomes ill, and so on, it is the mother who takes care of him, and when the maternity period begins, the man doctor continues to work and the woman doctor goes to the hospital. This is a reality. And our revolution consists in helping to make inequalities disappear. For this reason we have even proposed that women should have privileges--to call them something--which will help them to have equal conditions.

Now you are saying 55 and 45, that means that out of the 3,000--I'm looking for the numbers that are around here somewhere--1,963 women were chosen and 1,604 men were chosen. But now there is a masculine reinforcement by means of those who leave military service--as you know many comrades finish their secondary education and go to serve in the armed forces.

The principle of giving an opportunity to those youths to enter the university was also established. Others entered directly because they had good records, others fulfilled their military duties. It seemed to us that it was highly appropriate to give a second chance to study to those youths who complete military service. We believe that it is unobjectionably just, above all, for those who demonstrate having an interest, vocation, will, behavior, that is why there are 200 openings reserved for youths who completed their service in the revolutionary armed forces ministry--MINFAR--who are males, because women are not included in the military draft law--a small privilege. I know that they protest, but they serve in the militia, above all in the territorial troops militia. Not only is there a large number of women in the territorial troops but they are younger than some of the militia members because the others are in the regular units. Some of the men get tired, not the women. But there is reason for that, they are 20 or even 25 years younger. [laughter]

So that there are reinforcements which we estimate to be 200, the comrades are present here. They are going to take a 3-month refresher course, in physics, chemistry and Spanish, [laughter] very important subjects in order to become good doctors. They are going to begin to study now. There are 200 openings. There may be a few more or may be a few less, depending on how they learn, but they are good comrades, of good reputation. They have all the moral and political qualities. They have established excellent

military conduct. They are young and desire to study medicine. As a result they have their quota here. Now according to the way in which they study, pay attention in class and distinguish themselves, they will attain their place. All 400 are here. At least half will enter the detachment. They are going to receive good support and good discipline.

There are also a number of openings for the workers. We have established the right of the workers to be able to study. But in the field of medicine, which is not like engineering or other fields, there will be some pre-requisites established. There will also be the opportunity to enter the detachment from the ranks of the health workers. But this will have some limitations. These limitations will not be established this year but will be established next year. Some limitations such as age which up to now is 34 or 35 years of age and still appears to me to be too old to begin the study of medicine, considering 6 years in studies and then the specialization. It would not occur to us to send a 35-year-old man to cadet school, because by the time he graduates he would not be able to go to war, [laughter] because he would lack the energy for it. We must establish a limit and the limit is going to be 25 years of age, not including this year, because this year there are workers who have already devoted their efforts and we are not going to stop them. Of course [after that] those older than 25 will not be able to enter the detachment.

Twenty-five will be the age limit for entering the detachment. This requirement has been established. Now, it will not just be any worker. We are going to establish the steps leading to the study of medicine. For whom? For those who one day decided they wanted to become doctors and just because of that they want to be doctors? There must be some limitations, it cannot be avoided. Beginning with the next course, enrollment in the school of medicine will be limited to intermediate level medical technicians. They have the right. After graduation as medical technicians, and after 2 years at the working level--and the same as those completing military service--entrants must pass a prerequisite examination. Because there is a question in which we cannot compromise, and that is academic level. We cannot compromise this in the very least. That is why we must test all discharged servicemen. And beginning this year, workers who want to fill an opening must test. And these openings will be limited to I repeat, intermediate level medical technicians in the future. After graduation after 2 years at the working level and after passing a prerequisite examination, we believe this to be the proper manner of entry and it will be adhered to.

We cannot confuse medicine with sports or baseball. Almost anyone may play softball at the age of 50 and may even get a hit and a run--they say the base paths are shorter. But medicine is not a sport or a hobby. It is the most sacred of all professions. We cannot play with it. As a result, in the future, enrollment in medical school will be limited to very outstanding students or as discharged veterans of military service after passing the examination or as intermediate level medical technicians, who first of all, have the political and moral qualities, the required academic level, have passed the prerequisite examination and are not older than 25. Those will

be the requirements for entry into medical studies. And we hope that you all understand that if we want to accomplish a responsible and quality job, it cannot be any other way. And of course, political and moral qualities and academic level cannot be compromised in the least.

This is a good route for the medical technicians, because it still gives an opportunity to some of these students who have a real obsession to become a doctor, who scored higher than 90 but were still lower than others who were accepted. There are some girls who scored up to 92 in some provinces and they are not in the detachment. But now, say there is a girl that has the desire to be a doctor anyway, and she was not selected to enter the detachment, but has the political moral qualities, academic standing, she has a way. She can become an intermediate level medical technician, such as nurse or any other intermediate level medical technician. It could be done in 2 years. At this time they enter from the ninth grade but we are hopeful that in the future intermediate level medical technicians may enter from the 12th grade and instead of studying 3 years, they could do it in 2 years. We hope for that, because they already have that pre-university level, they can become intermediate level medical technicians in 2 years. We are as a rule considering this. This girl can, after graduation, work for 2 years, take the examination, and would then have a way to enter the detachment.

Yes, there is an opportunity for the many young people who were not able to enter the detachment. There is an opportunity and whoever has a true calling and wants to, can take advantage of it and gain entry into the detachment later. These were the principles which were followed. Now, no one, absolutely no one, among these 3,800 students was picked at random. Strict and rigorous rules were imposed and they were met. And we understand that the requirements were high because there were many very good students with a real calling who were not able to enter the detachment. However, these people still have an opportunity to enter through the route of becoming intermediate level medical technicians.

As a result of applying these rules, we have the average of the students accepted for the detachment. And not one has an average less than 90 percent. The women's academic average was 92.51 percent. As a matter of fact in some provinces the average was higher and in others less. The men's average was 91.5 percent. There may be a student with 80.5 or 90.4 percent. We are talking about the average. Not one score was lower than 90 percent whether man or woman. But the average of the women was 92.51 percent and the men 91.05 percent. This simply means that despite the fact that there are 1,983 women and 1,604 men, the selection has been better with the women. This means that, from the point of view of the academic level, it would not be unusual that in the future, if the men do not make a better effort, women will be better doctors than the men. We felt it important to make this explanation, that you may pass it on to your comrade students and explain all of the rules used to select entrants for the detachment.

I can tell you that we may feel very pleased, really pleased with the quality of the young people gathered here to make up the detachment. I am even going to say that I believe that a better job has never been accomplished. And in this we must give special acknowledgement to our communist youth, to the FEEM [Federation of Secondary School Students], to the FEU [Federation of University Students], to the Ministry of Public Health, to the Ministry of Education, to the Ministry of Higher Education, to the health sectors of the people's government, and to all those who worked in this process to make it a very responsible task of extraordinary quality. And you see what can be done.

This year, because it is the first year, and the idea of the detachment is relatively new, it was made up of 12th grade students. But the next detachment will be made up of 11th grade students. In other words we will begin selection for the next detachment this year. The selection and evaluation will be made. And the detachment will be formed before the end of the year, because one of the objectives of the detachment is to begin to work with the selectees, begin to familiarize them as much as possible with the studies they are going to be involved in and work with them. And that is why we must select them from the 11th grade. That is, to begin to select them from the 11th grade and form the detachment in the first quarter of the year. That is what we propose to do for next year.

What can be done has been demonstrated here with the pioneers. What Luis Orlando Dominguez was explaining to me is that the pioneers already have a vocational movement toward public health work where some 30,000 pioneers are involved. Imagine, we begin to develop the work with the pioneers and then we select them in the 11th grade. It is fabulous what can be done in this area for the objectives which we seek. The vocational activities which the pioneers are engaged in are important too, because perhaps from this experience in medicine we may learn and obtain useful ideas of how the selection of university students should be carried out. And fortunately, we believe that we have real success in the way in which we have formed the detachment and in the potential offered by the work we have accomplished. We are very optimistic at this time.

As a result of this we naturally expect that the academic retention rate will increase considerably, and that the 40 percent failure rate will not repeat itself. Now it is very important to follow closely the implementation of everything. What is the retention and promotion rate per year? It has been improving in the last few years but still needs to be improved. Without a doubt it has not been easy to get into the detachment. When 14,000 applied and 3,807 have been selected, it is a great honor for any young person to have been accepted for entrance into the detachment. But of course, it is no small thing to enter the detachment, it is a hard task. To be a member of the detachment, be promoted and become a doctor is a hard task, because the detachment will have its rules. And they are not even going to have the same rules as the rest of the students. The rules will be more stringent for the student of the medical sciences detachment.

I understand that all the activities are important and all the careers are important. Because if a comrade is an agronomist and he makes an error it could be that the harvest will be less and affect the economy of the country, but if a doctor makes a mistake then we have a loss of life or we could have a loss of life.

We are very interested in our veterinarians. I believe it would be tragic to receive the news that Ubre Blanca [famous milk-producing cow] has died from poor veterinary care. [laughter] It would be tragic, wouldn't it, if our great champion [cow] should die. If our doctor should make a mistake a human being would die and because of that we must make greater demands from medical students. Can we allow any fraud from a medical student? Is there anyone among you that would allow a loved one to be treated by a doctor who has committed some fraud as a medical student? We would not allow it. Of course, in these matters we must be more demanding. We would not dream that any student charged with fraud would be allowed to return to the study of medicine.

We are going to ask for more discipline and make more demands from the detachment's medical students. We will demand complete dedication to their studies. This does not mean that they cannot attend a party, participate in sports or not be happy young people. That is not our [words indistinct] to their obligation. Yes, their studies and obligations must be above all other things. That is the intent and I want to tell you tonight that we are going to be demanding with the detachment. And that demand, that discipline and that performance must be given at the level of the selection made and at the level of the detachment's prestige. Ah, you will be wearing a uniform. You saw it around there at the entrance. [negative response] You did not see it? [negative response] They told me there was a photograph. If you did not see it, I saw it. I saw the uniforms twice. We took a poll with the students, considered the colors, the type of uniform and all the problems.

It is not going to be a short-skirted uniform. It is a well-selected uniform. It was very well selected. I am not saying that it was not. But this is a different type of uniform. It includes in the first place, the doctor's robe is not very long. Don't be afraid about the robe. It is beautiful, elegant, has its pockets, and has everything. It is made of polyester, so it will be crease-resistant. [applause] Look at the way things are: we made a survey, [in English] a survey--looks like my English is not very good. [laughter] Then the members of the detachment wanted to have a uniform. The advanced students said no. So I said to the advanced students, who told you you would have uniforms? Nobody. [laughter] No one thought about that. They did not want it because I don't know if they feel like they are almost doctors already. [laughter] So they do not want it.

But really no one thought about the current students. The idea about uniforms came about because we remembered that the pedagogic detachment had a uniform. Therefore the detachment will be the only uniformed university students. But without a doubt it will be an advantage. It is

an advantage. What I would not want is for you to go to a party wearing the uniform. [laughter] Or for you to go to the movies in uniform, eh? When you get to your homes, you change clothes. But it does make it easier for the [upkeep of the] student's clothing. We believe that the robe will be the basic distinguishing characteristic. We talked about whether some emblem should be placed here, etc. After much deliberation we decided that with the problems of sewing it, dying it, washing it, all of that, the emblem was not necessary. It would detract from the elegance of the uniform. It has no emblem because the emblem is the uniform itself. For a time we also considered whether to put some hash mark or something that would indicate the year. We decided against that as well. We are not going to make any distinction between the first, second, third [years] etc.

Don't think we didn't do this rationally. You may trust all of us who have worked on all this, that we have thoroughly studied the problem. There will be no insignia or hash marks. [laughter] Now, you cannot deny that this flag, for example, is not a beautiful flag. Do you agree or not? [positive response] It has yellow signifying medicine and the red signifying internationalism. [applause] The robe is white. The pants or the skirts are the same color as those of the pedagogic detachment, dark blue. It is a beautiful color, one of the most beautiful of all the uniforms we have made. Very well. The girls may choose between wearing pants or a skirt, [applause] The same flexibility as the nurses. So that you already have the polyester robe, the skirt or the pants for the women and the pants for the men. The men have no choice about wearing skirts. [laughter] There will not be ties. Ties are for the parties. One problem remained. What to do when it got cold. That was the problem. What to do?

Many taxed their heads in order to resolve that problem. Well if we also provide a jacket--as it is the robe has been sized--the jacket would have to be longer than the robe. [laughter] Then if the person wore the jacket over the robe, while practicing medical sciences he would have no robe because it would be under the jacket. [laughter] If the robe were over the jacket then the student would appear fatter. That was a very difficult problem to resolve. Then the idea of a pull-over [in English] emerged. Someone got the idea of a pull-over [laughter and applause] and it appears that the pull-over was about to become the style. Then [the question arose] short-sleeves or long-sleeves? They would say, well if it has short-sleeves it will not protect one from the cold. If it has long-sleeves they said they would look like baseball players. [laughter]

We had to see it being worn; the color of the pull-over, many colors were tried, etc. Then a light blue color was chosen for the pull-over. [applause] It has long-sleeves and it really looks very elegant. And it is a high collar pull-over; [applause] a high collar which is really very elegant. And it is a heavy pull-over to protect one from the cold if in fact it is cold. [laughter and applause]

Don't think that this was chosen by one or two persons. There was a wide representation of students, of the detachment, of the youths, of the FEEM, of the FEU, of the Institute of Domestic Demand, of the garment industry, and also of a lot of comrades experienced in these matters, such as Comrade Fernandez, Comrade Machado, Comrade Pedro Miret, Comrade Sergio Del Valle, there were many comrades experienced, "very experienced"--in quotes, [laughter] thank you very much--in these questions. [applause]. There were many more people. There was a select jury looking at all the pros and cons of everything. Of course, it was clear that we could not do the exhibition here, because among other things we did not have the material. It still has to be made. The material there was, was used to make some models. But we saw what we wanted to see. We chose the uniform using wide, practical and rational criteria.

I still have not talked to you about the shoes [laughter], the moccasin-type shoes. [laughter] Look, it is more a platform shoe. [applause and laughter] These are the ideas, and of course all the comrades of the light industry, all those who have to deal with this are working in order to achieve that when the course begins you will have your uniforms already. Really, it will fit beautifully, I'm sure. Now you can picture it with your imaginations, when you are dressed in your uniforms. You will find them very beautiful. It is a study uniform, a work uniform. It is practical. It does not require you to use your house clothes or your street clothes to go to the hospital or to go to school. And when you go out, please you have to take it off [laughter], because it is not for going to the movies or for going to parties. You understand. Then are going to give you, we hope, four robes the first year--they are white and will get a little bit more soiled--and three uniforms. Any girl can choose one skirt and two pairs of pants, or two pants and one skirt, or three skirts, or three pairs of pants. [applause] You all choose. There will not be long or short stockings for the uniform. We made a small survey and asked several girls, and they said that they would choose two pairs of pants and one skirt. [laughter] It looks as if this criterium has been quite analyzed. But the uniform is flexible and very practical.

Therefore, after this there will be an additional handing over of uniforms. I believe you all have grown now and will not grow much more [laughter], perhaps two millimeters more at 17, 18 and 19 years of age. Don't gain too much weight [laughter], because it will be a problem. We will have to prohibit the detachment members from gaining too much weight, because we do not have a solution to the problem. [laughter] You can lose weight because it is easier to narrow the skirts than to make them wider, or the same is true for pants. [laughter]

We want the uniformed detachment to be known, distinguished, honored and respected. And this will depend a great deal on the prestige which you achieve.

I want to say that we have difficulties with the materials for the faculties. The country is building faculties of medical sciences in all provinces, and some lie [word indistinct] have the equivalent of two. Holguin will have two,

so will Villa Clara, Havana will have from six to eight in proportion to the population, but every province will have a faculty of around 1,500. Work is being done, despite our economic limits; the country is doing a great effort in the construction of the university faculties. Some of them are still to be built, but progress is being made. Therefore, in a realistic manner we must realize that the facilities and the material circumstances are not the most favorable, in the lodgings especially. You will all have to be prepared for the conditions you are going to find, which I repeat are not the best, but you will be certain that work is being done intensively to create the best conditions of work for the medical sciences detachments.

You must be aware that there are material limitations of different kinds, which include books, facilities, laboratories and so on. We propose precisely, taking into account the study that has been done on all the problems, to work to solve all these problems, beginning of course with textbooks. We will find a solution. Regarding the facilities, the audio-visual means and the laboratories, we propose that you have the best conditions for studying. This does not mean that we will have this the first year. However, I want you to know that we are planning to do the greatest effort to solve all the problems regarding facilities for study, especially regarding all related to the textbooks and laboratories, but also the construction of lodgings, and so on.

However, you must be aware of the fact that we have material limitations, and we cannot wait to have all the conditions established to undertake this teaching effort. Think you will be doctors within 6 years; you will be doctors in 1988. That means that this is a long-term project which the country has to undertake. The benefits of this detachment will begin to be seen after 1990. I believe that the new generations will be seen in 1990, 2000, 2025 and 2030. I believe that with you, we will have doctors for a long time. Therefore, it is an effort for the future.

We are planning to have you be doctors with a very solid and wide foundation, independent of the specialities. This is topic related to the studies on the teaching aspect, in which there is still a lot to be analyzed and discussed in order to achieve the objective of having doctors with a wide foundation, who have solid knowledge, independent of the specialities. However, we are thinking of a future in which even the general doctor should be a specialist. There is talk of specialists in surgery, ophthalmology, and so on and so on, yet the general doctor has a very important role. A general doctor is not regarded as a specialist. We are analyzing the idea of regarding the general doctor as a specialist, whose specialty requires the levels and training of a general doctor. He can also do his residency. We are hoping that everyone will have a wide and solid knowledge, and will also have his specialty. I think that one of the most important doctors is the general practitioner, yet he is not considered a specialist. A specialist is considered to be one who did his residency in some area or other. There are many ideas regarding this which still have to be developed and completed.

We propose to have you graduate as first class doctors, in the areas of science, politics and morality.

However, we did not resign ourselves only to the idea of organizing this detachment. We thought a lot about the present medical students and the importance for the country of the present medical students. There are around 17,000 students of medicine and dentistry. A long time before you all become doctors, they will have already spent years providing their services. Naturally, there was in this case a natural selection, the person who did not have a good record, who did not have the determination, who was not devoted to study was left behind. We have a large number of medical students at present. We have the news that those in the first years are of even better ability and that those who remained in last years have great ability. [applause] The ones who are in the 6th, 5th and 4th year have passed the test, the difficulties of several kinds and problems with the texts. The best remained logically.

In the most recent years it is said that as a group they are the students with the highest grades. Now, you are entering these studies. I believe that the detachment will be an emulation, it will create an emulation with the present students, with the frontline students, with the Mario Muniz frontline students. I believe that an emulation with the present doctors will also be created. I believe that all this policy that is being implemented in the training and medical teaching will encourage the present doctors to study and do better themselves. Sometimes we regret that we did not have the idea of forming this detachment before. We should have done it before. Of course, the country could not have done this in the beginning. In reality, it is now much easier than when the revolution was victorious. For example, there are doctors who graduated during the years of the revolution. There are 16,017, without counting the ones who are going to graduate this year, which are about 1,000. In the beginning of the revolution there were not even secondary schools for medical sciences. A great effort was made in 1962 when the Institute of Medical Sciences, of basic sciences, was established. The victory of Giron school in 1962. Those were the days before the October crisis. Progress was made. The moment was reached in 1964 when we were graduating more than 1,000 doctors. Then came a period when the lack of secondary schools made it necessary to reorganize with other university faculties. For this reason in 1968 only 569 doctors graduated; in 1969 only 683. Less than 1,000 graduated every year until 1981.

We hope that this will now be a definite policy. The revolution is gathering the benefits of its educational efforts. Today we have been able to select in this detachment among more than 40,000 students of the 12th grade. We could not even dream about this in other times. This is the result of the efforts made in education, in the medium-level schools, the secondary schools, the pre-university schools, and of the work of our professors and of the teaching detachment. Now we are reaping the benefits. Perhaps we would

have been able to do this 2 or 3 years before, but we have done it now at the opportune time, making the most of these advantages which we have today, which we could not even have dreamed about before. To ask for volunteers to study medicine and to have 14,000 volunteer students of 40,000 is a great success, and has enabled us to choose the quality which we can show in this detachment.

The present medical students are numerous already. It is to be supposed that this year about 1,000 medical students will graduate. Next year, in 1983, around 2,000 will graduate, in 1984 there will be a slight decrease, less than 2,000 will graduate. However, in 1985, 1986, 1987 more than 2,000 will graduate every year. Now we will have to see in 1988 what percentage of the students of the detachment will graduate as doctors. The results of our efforts and of our efficiency will be demonstrated by that percentage. Around 4,300. Between 4,300 and 4,500 will enter the first year to study medicine and dentistry, including some foreign scholarship students.

Now we have to follow closely the emulation of the faculties of the different provinces, the graduations, the behavior of the persons leaving military service whose discipline and devotion to duty we have faith in. The behavior of those who enter from the ranks of workers will interest us every year. How many entered, how many passed the 1st, 2d and 3d year, how many graduated? It is to be supposed that when this detachment graduates we will be graduating every year more than 3,000 doctors. That is to say that as many doctors as imperialism left us here will graduate every year. We hope that on that date more will be entering medical studies when the faculties which are presently being built are finished.

I'm trying to recall if I have forgotten something. We have practically discussed everything. It seems to me that I am interpreting the feelings of all the comrades here present in the presidency of this ceremony and of all the revolutionary comrades if I tell you that we are satisfied at this time, we are optimistic, we have faith in you. The news of the creation of the detachment was received with happiness by the people. It was received with happiness by the [word indistinct], by everyone. It is a fact which awakened many hopes in our people and in all our revolutionary comrades. For the revolution the most sacred thing is the health of the people, the life and well-being of the citizens. The revolution is proud of what it has done for our compatriots, for the successes achieved in public health, because we have seen what can be achieved. See how the life expectancy on being born is already 72 years in our time. We are at the level of the developed and wealthy countries in this sense. How much more can we do? It is not easy to reduce infant mortality when you are at the level of less than 19, but we have to struggle to continue reducing it. Who knows what science can do to increase life expectancy still?

However, the most important thing is not that, it is not to prevent a child from dying. It is very important to prevent this, but it is not just a matter of prolonging life, but that the years you live will be years of

well-being and health for the human being, of confidence, of security and of tranquility. The first thing a doctor causes is tranquility for all citizens even if they are healthy because they feel secured, they see the doctor as a life insurance, as a health insurance for them and their children, for their relatives and for all.

Someone said that it was not a matter of adding years to life but of adding more life to the years. That is going to depend to a great extent on our doctors.

Our education today is considered as one of the biggest achievements of any nation. The same is said about our public health. They are taken as models for the Third World. And yet, we can do much more and we shall do much more along these lines. We can be useful to mankind in many ways and in many fields, but there is no field in which we can be more useful than the medical field.

The members of the Mario Munoz student vanguard demonstrated during the epidemic last year that they could help the people, they demonstrated their class. And I can remember those days when the pediatric hospitals were full. The hospitals were full of sick people. I remember the gratitude with which the relatives spoke of the students' work and what a great contribution they made to the victory over the disease. We can not only do a lot for mankind, we can do a lot for our own people in this field.

And, I repeat, I am convinced that we cannot help mankind more than in the field of medicine. Yesterday we were talking to our friends, our brothers from the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. A group of our doctors work over there, around 30 doctors. Guinea-Bissau has nearly 1 million inhabitants. They only have 11 doctors; eleven Guinean doctors. There are Cuban doctors, doctors from other friendly countries and the total number of doctors is 104. I asked them what was the infant mortality rate. They told me 200 for each 1,000 during the first year of life. They told me 400 from birth to age 5. You can see what colonialism left behind in those countries. Eleven doctors! And 200 children dying before age 1 and almost 50 percent before age 5. I think these figures will give you an idea of the great revolutionary value, the great human value the development of medicine has. Countries are asking for our help, they desperately ask for our help in this field. In Nicaragua, where 200 Cuban doctors work, the Nicaraguan comrades are asking us for 100 more. They want them now. More than agronomists, civilian engineers, what the countries are asking for, and it is only logical, are doctors, above all.

That is why we need that kind of doctor that you described in your oath: a doctor ready to fulfill any mission, anywhere. The imperialists do not quite understand how Cuba can develop such broad relationships and how it can give the help it does. The explanation is that we have the human resources. We have the men and women capable of undertaking these missions. Before, we did not have doctors willing to go into the Escambray or Sierra Maestra or

Baracoa. In fact, not even Holguin, much less Baracoa, or Santa Clara or Ciego de Avila. Today we have doctors who go to Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos, Yemen, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome, Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Grenada, Nicaragua--anywhere. It is really a source of pride for any nation to be able to say that it can count on this kind of men and women, [applause] like our teachers, construction workers, combatants, like our armed forces, always ready for any mission wherever they are sent without the least hesitation. It is a source of pride for our people. I am sure that it has to be a source of pride for you, to feel part of this nation, children of this nation, participants of this struggle, this history, to know that you among these people are called upon to become the vanguard, the standard bearers of this revolutionary and internationalist spirit. [applause]

Several years of revolution have passed. There have been many ceremonies, many contacts with the masses. You know that we do not tell lies or employ demagoguery--ever. We do say what we see and it is impossible not to feel joy, optimism, great satisfaction when our fatherland can organize and deposit its entire trust on a group of young people such as you are. I know that a real representation of the best young people, the best students in our country are present here today, young people of great caliber in all areas.

When we began there were only a few. We were only a handful in 1952. Men with optimism, good faith, willing to wage the struggle. We spent time in prison, we fought. We were few at the beginning yet, the will, readiness, confidence in the people of that handful of men demonstrated that we could go far. We have reached this day. We are no longer a handful. We are gathered here with thousands of young people of your caliber. I feel that we can achieve whatever we set out to do. We can attain any goal, because, when a nation can count on youth such as you, nothing is impossible. We leave today's ceremony with the conviction that our fatherland will become a real medical power at the service of our people and mankind. Thank you. Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

CSO: 3010/1090

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES WITH GRENADA

Grenada Envoy Hails Cuba

FL111455 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] The triumph of Grenada's revolution would not have been possible without the assistance of revolutionary Cuba, the same as Cuba's revolution would not have become a reality without the Great October Socialist Revolution, said Richard Jacobs, ambassador from that fraternal country in Cuba. He added that Grenada, by taking part in the historical process, is in solidarity with all liberation movements, and especially with those in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ambassador Jacobs said that the Grenadian Government identifies with the causes of the peoples in Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay and Haiti, the latter of which reflects a very sad picture for the continent.

The ambassador added that the U.S. attempts to portray Grenada as a threat to the Caribbean peoples because of the example it has set by the fact that 120,000 inhabitants of that small nation have accomplished a revolution a short distance from imperialism. Jacobs said yesterday in a ceremony held at AALAPSO's main offices that he condemns Washington's aggressive threats against Cuba, Nicaragua and the struggling people of El Salvador, and he said that the Caribbean is not--as the imperialists believe--their backyard.

MPSP Hails Grenada Revolution

FL130008 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples [MPSP] has held in our capital a militant political and cultural ceremony on the occasion of the third anniversary of the triumph of Grenada's revolution. Severo Aguirre, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and Council of State, who is president of the MPSP, chaired the ceremony together with Grenadian Ambassador Richard Jacobs, (Varcon Simone), second vice president of Grenada's PAACA committee, and other personalities.

Jesus Reyes of the MPSP Secretariat asserted that after just 3 years of selfless efforts, the revolutionary government of Grenada is able to report great accomplishments in all sectors of the country's social affairs. Among them, he cited free medical services for all people, creation of jobs and the successful battle against illiteracy.

OCLAE Supports Grenada

FL130034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] On the occasion of the drive of solidarity with Grenada, the permanent secretariat of the Continental Organization of Latin American Students [OCLAE] has reasserted its solidarity with the people of that Caribbean nation. The document recalls that 3 years ago a people's insurrection led by the New Jewel Movement overthrew the reactionary regime of Eric Gairy, which was supported by yankee imperialism and other fascist governments, marking the beginning of a period of socioeconomic reforms on that island.

The document also notes that the Grenada process, led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, has devoted great efforts to building a new life, and has achieved notable advances in the fields of the economy, health and education. The OCLAE declaration charges that the Ronald Reagan administration, in its desire to frustrate the gains of that Caribbean nation, is constantly carrying out provocations and threats of aggression. It adds that such reactionary plans have smashed against the Grenadians' firm determination to consolidate their revolution and strengthen the country's defenses.

The movement of Latin American and Caribbean students and their most representative organization, the OCLAE, reassert their most determined support for and solidarity with the students and people of Grenada, convinced that they will remain victorious in the face of yankee imperialism's attacks.

Risquet in Grenada

FL121425 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the party Politburo, has addressed a mass rally which took place in St George marking the 3d anniversary of the Grenadian revolution. In the activity presided over by Maurice Bishop, top leader of the Grenadian people, Risquet stated that the Cuban revolution will remain firmly at the side of that fraternal country. Maurice Bishop and Jorge Risquet inaugurated a modern medium wave radion station with a 50-kilowatt transmitter connected to a 117 meter tower built by Cuban and Grenadian workers.

CSO: 3010/1058

REPORTAGE ON NICARAGUAN ACTIVITIES

D'Escoto Visits Publishing House

FL111520 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Miguel d'Escoto, the foreign minister of the Republic of Nicaragua, has visited the main offices of Casa de Las Americas in Havana where he was received by its president, Mariano Rodriguez, deputy to the National Assembly. During the visit they discussed matters of general interest in a fraternal and productive conversation.

Almeida, Nicaraguans at Grenada Fete

FL131855 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, attended a reception last night hosted by Grenadian ambassador to Cuba Richard Jacobs to celebrate the 3d anniversary of the triumph of the Grenadian revolution. The reception was also attended by commander of the revolution Carlos Nunez, president of Nicaragua's Council of State, and other members of the PCC Central Committee and representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba.

CSO: 3010/1089

REPORTAGE ON NONALIGNED ACTIVITIES

Transnational Activities Scored

FL121605 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The delegates to the fourth meeting of coordinators of the action program for economic cooperation of the nonaligned countries movement have charged that the activities of the transnational companies threaten the sovereignty of developing nations. The plenary meeting ratified the right of all states to nationalize those companies in exercising of their full sovereignty and in defense of their natural resources. The representatives of some 50 countries meeting at the Palace of Conventions have urged joint action against the practices of the transnational companies.

Economic Cooperation Document Approved

FL131905 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] The work that the nonaligned movement has carried out in the area of economic cooperation can be described as successful and positive, according to the final statement approved by the 56 delegations participating in the fourth meeting of countries coordinating the program of action. The experts acknowledge that the most recent program of action for economic cooperation, approved at the Havana summit, broadened the scope of cooperation and exchanges between nonaligned and other developing countries.

The delegations noted the efforts of the nonaligned countries for the program's execution. The statement also expresses concern over certain tendencies opposing the common goals of multilateral economic cooperation. The meeting concludes this afternoon.

Del Valle Attends Reception

FL171601 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Dr Sergio del Valle, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and minister of public health, has attended the reception hosted by the Public Health Ministry in honor of the delegations participating in the second meeting of health experts from the nonaligned movement and other developing countries.

The objective of the meeting being held in this capital is to discuss a health policy for all by the year 2000, as recommended by the World Health Organization.

CSO: 3010/1061

REPORTAGE ON HUNGARIAN VISITING GROUPS

Cooperation Protocol Signed

FL111445 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Manuel Cespedes, vice minister of transportation, and Lajos Urban, state secretary and deputy minister of Hungary's Ministry of Transportation and Postal Affairs, have signed a scientific and technical direct cooperation protocol in the area of transportation. The agreement, effective for the 2-year period from 1982 to 1983, covers bilateral trade, which includes the assistance Hungary is to give in organizing the operation, maintenance and repair of the Ikarus buses being assembled in our country.

Ministry Protocol Signed

FL121900 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The Hungarian People's Republic and the Republic of Cuba have signed a cooperation agreement between the foreign ministries of the two countries which will be put into effect immediately and will be effective until 31 December 1985. The protocol was signed by Janos Nagy, state secretary of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry [title as heard], and for Cuba, Jorge Bolanos, vice minister of foreign relations.

Machado Ventura Meets Official

FL161755 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo, has met with Laszlo Karakas, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee and chief of its political economy department, who is visiting our country in fulfillment of the exchange plan of the two parties.

Participating in the meeting, which was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere, were Barbara Castillo, chief of the Central Committee economy and administration department, as well as other party officials and (Imre Nagy), political adviser of the Hungarian Embassy in Cuba.

CSO: 3010/1060

GUATEMALA SCORED FOR VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 3 Mar 82 p 6

[Commentary by Juan Marrero: "Devil's Advocate"]

[Text] The tyrannical governments of the continent rummage through history from time to time trying to discover some past event that would permit them to change their negative image resulting from the constant violations of human rights. To be sure, very often the thread they hang onto is so thin that their position is precarious. As a general rule, they make fools of themselves. This is what has just happened to Rafael Castillo Valdez, Guatemala's minister of foreign relations, who said that in his country "human rights have been respected since the time of Fray Bartolome de las Casas...". Without meaning to, of course, because for this he has used the name of Bartolome de las Casas, called the Protector of the Indians, Guatemala's minister of foreign relations has clearly and plainly said something nobody can disagree with: that the human rights observed in Guatemala today are the same as those present in colonial days. And it is well to remember that perhaps nowhere on the Continent was the destruction brought about by the colonizers as complete, nor did it leave a deeper wound, than in the territory occupied by the Maya Indians. The conquest was, for Guatemala, as Juan Marinello wrote "a resplendent and bloody event". The conqueror Pedro de Alvarado, a coldblooded murder machine, exterminated in 16 years almost 5 million Indians, by that time dispersed after the disappearance of the Maya civilization, which left extraordinary accomplishments, such as the development of a unique writing system, investigations in astronomy and the measurement of time with nearly absolute precision. The invaders' violence destroyed everything. Are these the human rights to which the minister of foreign relations, Castillo Valdez, refers? Because in fact that is exactly what the Guatemalan military tyranny, supported by the United States, does with the Guatemalan population. Today, as in those days of atrocities and plundering by the inhuman conquerors, the powerful are more interested in wealth and material assets than in the people, for whom they show utter contempt. The conquistadors killed to steal the gold and other wealth. They killed in the name of a culture they called civilizing, despising the Indians as animals and destroying their culture. Today the army and the oligarchies do the same: impose force and death to maintain their privileges and those of a powerful country: the United States. Father las Casas surely fought against such actions of the conquistadors, but he was an exception. In the same way, there are today

clergymen who preach in favor of the humble and the oppressed. We know very well that Castillo Valdez does not sympathize with these latter, who defend the guerrillas. His interests are similar to those of the conquistadors. He is a devil's advocate.

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CSO: 3010/945

CHULLIMA SHIPYARD PRODUCTION DESCRIBED

Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 29 Jan 82 p 4

[Article by Nieves Alvarez Sisto]

[Text] Its name, Chullima Shipyards, says much. It holds unforgettable moments for the laborers who work there, especially for the founders, those who in 1962 took part in the simple inauguration ceremony of the center, which was attended by the "heroic guerrilla", Commander Ernesto Guevara, accompanied by the then ambassador to Cuba from the Democratic Republic of Korea.

From those first days it is impossible not to single out the small group of waterfront carpenters engaged in the construction of wooden boats, who years afterwards became the teachers of the future carpenters and woodworkers, to whom they bequeathed the building tradition that distinguishes the center.

A Jump in the Quality of the Work Done

It was not until the beginning of 1969, years after its establishment, that construction started on the first ferrocement boats, with which a considerable improvement in the application of this new technique was achieved.

With new developments in the technological process, the years 1970-74 meant for the "Chullima Shipyards" a boost in the construction of steel boats, a project for which it was necessary to train a group of laborers as marine assemblers, welders and boiler makers.

In 1978, with the objective of achieving more significant progress in accordance with the plan outlined by the System of Economic Administration and Planning, the Granma and Chullima Shipyards merged, thus integrating the production of steel and plastic boats under one management, an event that was a considerable help in attaining the production goals actually reached.

At the present time the shipyards are dedicated to the repair and construction of plastic, wooden and steel boats for the fishing industry, although among their production activities is the building of boats for export.

Economic Results

During 1981 a total of 158 ships, worth 4,443,000 pesos, were built in the Shipyards, fulfilling 235 percent of the plan.

It is well to point out that this output includes 635 aquatic bicycles for domestic use and 17 fishing launches with boulders for export.

Of this plan, with values reaching 4,240,000 pesos, a real value of 4,607,800 was achieved, which is equivalent to 108 percent of the performance goal, a figure that represented an increase of half a million pesos over the value of the yield obtained last year.

On the other hand, the productivity performance was 108 percent and the mean salary was 103, which is equivalent to an increase of 892 pesos per laborer as compared to 1981.

In the cost per unit weight there were also obvious achievements, since this was reduced from 79 centavos to 75, a figure that represents 4 centavos less than in the previous year.

What Are the Shipyards Like?

To perform their tasks, the 565 workers from the center depend on five main workshops devoted to production and three drydocks capable of receiving boats up to 23 meters long for repairs, in addition to service areas, warehouses and other facilities.

The Emulation

Manuel Baron, general secretary of the Trade Union Bureau and leader of the naval mechanics team at the Center, proudly showed us the prizes won by the workers' collective, which were presented by the CTC National 1, the Flag XI Festival and that of the Production Promotion Center, as well as that of the Most Outstanding Center of the Municipal Plaza.

He also told us that in the emulation going on at the level of teams and workshops, the Shipyards have 28 outstanding laborers, of whom 6 were chosen at the company level as the year's foremost.

Of these, Raul Leal Valiente, a mechanic in the hydraulic plant, who is a true example among his comrades, stands out as a national leader.

Innovators Movement

In the interest of solving the problem of lack of parts and assemblies indispensable for maintaining production, the Movement of Innovators and Distributors was formed, comprising 35 comrades.

One of them, Jose Martin Alfonso, deserves special mention. He is the inventor of a device used in the machining of spherical journal bearings which made

the shafts last longer, an invention that contributed greatly to the saving of foreign currency.

Like this inventor, the workers' collective of Chullima Shipyards grows in the face of difficulties and day after day produces for the economy.

9907

CSO: 3010/945

REPORTAGE ON VISITING GUINEA-BISSAU DELEGATION

Vieira's Award Ceremony Speech

FL121545 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0141 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Speech by Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the Council of the Revolution of Guinea-Bissau, at the ceremony held at Havana's Cubanacan Hall to award him the Order of Jose Marti--live; in Portuguese with consecutive Spanish translation]

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, comrade leaders of the party and the government, comrades and friends: Allow me to express my gratitude to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for his kind invitation made to me by the Cuban party and government, which demonstrates the fraternal friendship existing between my African country and his Afro-Latin American country. I would like on this solemn occasion to express my gratitude with great emotion for the honor I have just been given on being awarded the Order of Jose Marti. The granting of such a high award is for me and my delegation a symbol of the friendship and fraternity between our peoples and an encouragement for the heroic efforts of the people of Guinea-Bissau, who under the leadership of the PAIGC [African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau] knew how to fight in such an exemplary manner for their national liberation. Jose Marti, the inspirator of the nationalist struggle of Cuba and of other Caribbean countries, and the Cuban revolution are examples for our party and people and an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the peoples struggling for their liberation.

History wanted me to return to Cuba as the chief of state of Guinea-Bissau after spending more than 1 year in direct contact with the rich experiences of the fraternal people of Cuba. This is my second visit to the fatherland of Jose Marti at an important political time for nations in Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa when the confrontations are multiplying and when a climate of tension is being created in the vain attempt to obstruct the popular struggles of the oppressed peoples for their liberation. Our two countries, united by historical and cultural ties made in the past under painful and subsistence conditions, saw with the establishment of our two

parties, which led the heroic struggles against imperialist and colonialist domination, the development of relations of cooperation and friendship, sealed with the martyr blood of the Cuban internationalist combatants who died for the liberation of the fatherland of Amilcar Cabral.

Guinea-Bissau carried out a vanguard role in the heroic work of national liberation, due in fact to the unconditional support given to us by the internationalist and other peace-loving countries. Today, after the liberation of our country, we have been able to count upon the fraternal cooperation of socialist Cuba, mainly in the area of technical assistance in many fields in the training of our cadres, and with the granting of all possible material aid in the particularly sensitive sociopolitical situation in which our country lives constantly threatened by imperialism.

Comrade First Secretary of the PCC, allow me to describe briefly the present situation of my country, which became the homeland of many Cuban revolutionaries. With the establishment of independence we have faced enormous problems as a result of the colonialist presence throughout the centuries. A country without economic infrastructures, with a high rate of illiteracy, and with a society characterized by conditions of socioeconomic inequality, the first years of independence saw the birth of a series of emergency measures for the purpose of creating minimum conditions necessary for promoting development. The third PAIGC congress, held 3 years after the total liberation, ended this situation and recommended a series of concrete guidelines for the purpose of implementing the development of several sectors of the national reconstruction. Three years after this major event in the life of our people, the socioeconomic and political situation became insupportable. Significant deviations from the party's principles and incorrect actions in the area of economic development led the country to a catastrophic situation. It was necessary to think again in the revolutionary process of building a society without exploitation and of resuming the road laid out by the founding leader, Amilcar Cabral. Thus on 14 November 1980 a group of militants formed the Council of the Revolution which assumed power, proceeding immediately to the necessary readjustments which our society required.

The first extraordinary PAIGC congress held from 8-14 November 1981 reaffirmed the party of struggle for independence as the instrument created for the liberation of the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde, a party which now acquired national characteristics.

Comrade First Secretary, since 14 November we have been firmly determined to continue the road opened by the glorious liberation struggle, and with this to build in our country a free society which is progressive, anti-imperialist and anticolonialist, a country which is hastening to belong to the non-aligned movement, over which comrade commander in chief presides so masterfully. Our political regime continues to support unconditionally the peoples struggling for their liberation, such as the peoples of Namibia, the Western Sahara, South Africa, Palestine, Eastern Timor and El Salvador

among others. Our country is participating on the side of progressive countries in the combat without respite for the establishment of a new and more just international order. Also we are on the side of the countries such as Cuba; the Frontline countries and especially the People's Republic of Angola; and Nicaragua, which are being threatened by imperialism. Guinea-Bissau continues to make all efforts so that a climate of detente, understanding among peoples and dialogue among nations is established in the world.

Comrade First Secretary of the PCC, comrade leaders of the party and government, comrades: Our delegation, who has been treated so warmly since its arrival in the country of the Mambises, has come animated by the best spirit to consolidate and strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our parties and governments. We are certain that the exchange of experiences and the regular coordinations will allow a greater convergence of views, especially regarding our positions on the international arena. To conclude, allow me, once again to express my gratitude for the fraternal welcome given by the people of the beautiful city of Havana and by the party and government leaders to our delegation. Thank you very much.
[applause]

Valdes Hails Vieira

FL120258 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Speech by Cuba's Communist Party Politburo member Ramiro Valdes at the ceremony held at Havana's Cubanacan Hall to decorate Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira with the Order of Jose Marti--live]

[Text] Comrade Fidel; Comrade Joao Bernardo Vieira, secretary general of the African Party for Independence in Guinea-Bissau; comrade members of the delegation; comrades: Some 20 years ago, when our revolution was barely beginning to move forward, the heroic struggle of the people of Guinea-Bissau against colonialism became known in our fatherland, and the Cuban people learned to love and admire those patriots who, in difficult circumstances, in the midst of the jungle, in a small territory, had initiated with great determination an armed struggle for independence.

Since then have existed close relations of friendship and solidarity between Guinea-Bissau and Cuba. It was one of the first African liberation movements with which we established ties, and were fortunate to meet and establish relations of brotherhood with its top leaders and, above all, with that extraordinary fighter, that personality which belongs to Africa and all oppressed peoples in the world, unforgettable Comrade Amilcar Cabral.

In reality, our two countries and revolutionary processes did justice to the profound ties uniting them in history. In past centuries, when Cuba was a colony in which tens of thousands of slaves were enduring the most inhumane exploitation, the territory of Guinea-Bissau served as one of the

bases for that shameful trade of African men and women. Since 1868, when in our fatherland begun the wars of independence, many of those former slaves and their descendents became soldiers of the glorious army of liberation and contributed with their blood and sacrifice, as they had done before with their work, to forge the Cuban nation.

That is why there could be nothing strange in the fact that--barely after gaining victory for our revolution, when Cuba was waging a tenacious struggle in the face of yankee imperialism's pursuit--Cuban combatants went to lend their modest and selfless help to the patriots of Guinea-Bissau, and that the most profound ties of internationalist fraternity were established between our peoples, our parties and our leaders.

We can proudly proclaim that Cuba and Guinea-Bissau are two peoples that are united by history, by blood, by freedom and by revolution. This explains the joy and love with which we have received in our country a true hero of the war of liberation of Guinea-Bissau, one of the most outstanding forgers of the independence of his fatherland, a man of humble origin who knew how to gain the authority and prestige that today make him a firm flagbearer of the revolution of Guinea-Bissau, a dear and invariable friend of Cuba, Comrade (Nino).

Yesterday we welcomed him with the affection with which one greets a brother in a struggle for the same cause, a combatant in the same trench. Those feelings which he will be able to ascertain in each of his activities on Cuban soil are an expression of the recognition of his role as an outstanding African leader, as a ruler who makes every effort to consolidate and deepen more and more his country's revolutionary process, to strengthen its anti-imperialist orientation and to make it advance in close alliance with the rest of the underdeveloped countries, with all the other revolutionary and progressive peoples in Africa and the world.

The leadership of our party and government highly values what that consistent, energetic and courageous attitude means at times like today's when the most aggressive and reactionary circles of imperialism are mobilizing to attempt checking the revolutionary movement in all parts of the world, when in Africa the racists are being encouraged to perpetrate the most indignant crimes against neighboring countries, when Namibia's right to a real independence is being flouted and when an effort is being made to force the retreat of all peoples in that continent who have decided to march on the path of freedom, justice and development.

All these reasons more than justify the decision of our Council of State which has agreed to present to you, dear Comrade (Nino), a high and precious decoration, the Order of Jose Marti. It bears the revered name of the most universal and advanced Cuban revolutionary of the last century. Please allow Comrade Fidel Castro to fulfill this agreement and pin on your chest of combatant and revolutionary the insignia of this order which we hope will be a symbol of our friendship, a demonstration of recognition for your worthy contribution to the cause of the liberation of the peoples and a token of our firmest, militant and determined solidarity. Thank you, very much.
[applause]

Cuban-Guinea-Bissau Talks

FL121435 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The official talks between the Cuban and Guinea-Bissau delegations began yesterday at the Palace of the Revolution. The two delegations are headed by Brig Gen Joao Bernardo Vieira, secretary general of the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and president of the Council of the Revolution; and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

Isle of Youth Tour

FL121828 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Joao Bernardo Vieira, secretary general of the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and president of the Council of the Revolution, has arrived on the Isle of Youth accompanied by Juan Almeida, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo. The fraternal delegation received a warm welcome in its tour through the main avenues of Nueva Gerona. He was received by the members of the party provincial committee executive bureau, Armando Manresa, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party on the island; and Jorge Antelo, president of the municipal assembly of the people's government. During its stay in the area the Guinea-Bissau delegation will tour areas of socioeconomic and historical interest.

CSO: 3010/1057

BRIEFS

FOREIGN VISITORS--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received Janos Nagy, state secretary of the Hungarian People's Republic [title as heard], and Ibrahim Hakim, foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, in separate visits. Also yesterday, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca held talks with his Saharan counterpart, Ibrahim Hakim, where they dealt with various aspects of the international situation and the development of bilateral relations. [Text] [FL121250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 82]

SDAR MINISTER VISITS--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has received Ibrahim Hakim, foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, who is paying a short visit to Cuba. During the talks, the two sides exchanged views on the admission of Western Saharan into the Organization of African Unity, and Foreign Minister Hakim reported on other gains attended by the POLISARIO Front in its struggle for national independence. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, held talks with Comrade Ibrahim Hakim in his offices at the Cuban Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, which was held in a fraternal atmosphere, the two ministers discussed many aspects of the international situation and the development of bilateral relations. Comrade Hakim especially referred to the recent admission of his country into the OAU and the importance of that organization for the Western Saharan people's struggle for gaining full independence. [Text] [FL122345 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 12 Mar 82]

BURUNDI ENVOY--Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, this morning received in solemn audience His Excellency Melchior Bwakira who presented his credentials accrediting him as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Burundi. Participating in the ceremony for the Cuban side was Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, and Mr (Jack Jakidimar), director of Burundi's Foreign Ministry, for the visiting side. At the conclusion of the ceremony the ambassador and his entourage went to the Plaza de la Revolucion and laid a floral wreath before the Jose Marti Monument. [Text] [FL130150 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Mar 82]

PORTUGUESE ENVOY AT ICAP--Rene Rodriguez, member of the Central Committee and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples [ICAP], has received Dr Francisco Jose Laco (Treisler) Knopfli, Portugal's ambassador to Cuba. They discussed the strengthening of the ties of friendship between the Portuguese and Cuban peoples. ICAP Vice President Mario Rodriguez was also present. [FL131914 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 12 Mar 82 FL]

NEW SHIP--The merchant ship "Donato Marmol," recently purchased second-hand on the international shipping market, has docked at the Havana port for operation by the Mambisa Navigation Enterprise. The ship is the same kind as the "Bartolome Maso," which was bought in February for our merchant navy. The new ship's deadweight is 15,000 tons, it has a 7,500-horsepower main engine and a crew of 36. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1510 GMT 13 Mar 82 FL]

AALAPSO SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIA--In connection with the 8 March celebration of the 19th anniversary of the beginning of armed struggle in Syria, the Afro-Asian-Latin American Peoples Solidarity Organization [AALAPSO] has hosted a reception to show support for the Syrian people, party and government, which are facing Zionist aggression. Syrian charge d'affaires in Cuba (Massoum Kassawa) delivered a speech. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 82 FL]

PROVINCIAL PARTY OFFICIAL DIES--Cecilio Sanchez Valiente, 66, has died in Santiago de Cuba after a long illness. Cecilio was a member of the party's provincial bureau. He will be buried tomorrow in Santa Ifigenia Cemetery. [FL180040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1926 GMT 17 Mar 82 FL]

CULTURAL COUNCIL ASSESSMENT--The main responsibility of a people's cultural council is to develop the right environment for people to engage in cultural activities, Armando Hart has said. Hart, a member of the Politburo and minister of culture, closed the fifth annual plenum in Havana to assess the work of the councils. The plenum approved the organizational measures for this year and the principal guidelines for mass cultural work at the provincial and municipal levels up to 1985. Included among the 10 basic tasks were increased cultural work by mass and social organizations, especially among young students and workers, and support for the establishment of history museum in each municipality. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 Mar 82 FL]

AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN--Cuba's Council of State yesterday designated Comrade Oscar Garcia Fernandez ambassador of Cuba to Spain. Garcia Fernandez has been holding the post of vice minister at the Higher Education Ministry. [Text] [FL151245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 82]

DOMESTIC TRADE IRREGULARITIES--Displaying a combative attitude, the members of the Commerce and Gastronomy Trade Union today approved a plan aimed at fighting criminal actions in that area of work. Valuable contributions were made during a plenary session held at the Lazaro Pena Theater of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions when several workers firmly denounced irregularities by a minority of commerce and gastronomy workers who incur in violations. In order to eradicate these violations, a document was approved which outlines the trade union's stand on each of these criminal activities. Closing the plenary session, Domestic Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa emphasized that the campaign has been undertaken, in the first place, because of the people's concern about these actions. Regarding specific campaign actions, the minister cited as an example an operation carried out by the Interior Ministry today in 30 units in Havana to eliminate violations by individuals who are in charge of controlling queues. The authorities arrested 8 administrators, 18 cashiers, 6 store directors, 41 workers, 97 queue controllers and 14 individuals working in miscellaneous activities. Minister Vila Sosa noted that the success of this campaign is ensured because it has the participation of the immense majority of commerce and gastronomy workers who are faithful adherents to revolutionary principles. [Text] [FL160207 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Mar 82]

BULGARIAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTER--The minister of transportation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Vasil Tsanov, has arrived in the Isle of Youth at the head of a delegation from the brother country. Hundreds of Nicaraguan students from the Carlos Fonseca Amador Rural Secondary School received the visitors with a great show of friendship and solidarity. During its stay on Isle of Youth soil, the Bulgarian delegation, accompanied by commander of the revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, Cuba's minister of transportation, will visit places of historic, urban and economic interest. On his return to Havana, Tsanov will continue his official talks with the Cuban side and sign protocols of bilateral cooperation and transportation assistance. [Text] [FL152200 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1928 GMT 15 Mar 82]

CUBAN-SPANISH PROTOCOL--In Havana, Cuban Culture Minister Hart Davalos and Spain's ambassador to Cuba Enrique Larroque have signed the first agreement on cultural and educational cooperation between the two countries. The protocol reflects the community of traditions, language and culture and the desire of strengthening and maintaining the ties of friendship, understanding and cooperation of the Cuban and Spanish peoples. Armando Hart noted that the document interprets, as never before, the union existing between the two nations, given their common roots. [Text] [FL181253 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 82]

CSO: 3010/1059

CHARLES REPORTS ON TRIP TO PARIS, LONDON

FL160129 Bridgetown CANA in English 2305 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 15 Mar (CANA)--France has agreed to help Dominica develop its indigenous energy resources and expand national housing, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has announced here.

Miss Charles spoke on her return home from visits to Paris and London.

The Dominican leader went to France to address an aid donors meeting, at the invitation of the World Bank. She also took the opportunity to discuss assistance to the island with officials of the French Government.

Miss Charles said that France had agreed to give Dominica two million francs to help in the exploration of its energy resources and that assistance was also forthcoming in the area of housing, and determining the limitation of the national boundaries in Dominica.

She said that three missions are due here within the next three months, as a result of her discussions with the French officials.

Miss Charles' visit to London was to discuss with the British Government the future of the banana industry in the windward islands. She was joined by St Vincent's Agriculture Minister Vincent Beache and said that they stressed the need for Britain to provide more financial assistance to the ailing industry.

I emphasized the point that it was necessary for actual financing, it was not sufficient just to have inputs, Miss Charles told newsmen.

The banana industry in the four islands--Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada and St Vincent--is facing serious difficulties brought on by poor quality fruit, damage to various holdings and destruction caused by two hurricanes within two years.

Added to this, competition from higher quality Latin American fruit threatens to make the islands lose their grip on the United Kingdom market.

Miss Charles said that she had told the British Government officials that the banks here had been helping to finance the industry "at uncommercial rates" but it was necessary for the UK, too, to help fund the vital foreign exchange earning sector.

She said that for the first time she believed the British "understood the problems that we have and the importance of the banana industry."

The Dominican leader also disclosed that commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal will visit here next month, for talks with the government and "to see how we are getting on."

CSO: 3025/1057

BRIEFS

OFFICIAL TO TRINIDAD--Roseau, Dominica, 18 Mar (CANA)--Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles flies out of Dominica today accompanied by her agriculture minister, Heskieth Alexander, for talks with the Trinidad and Tobago Government on further assistance to her country. A government statement today said that Miss Charles will meet with Prime Minister George Chambers and other members of his cabinet as well as members of the Chamber of Commerce there. The main talking point is expected to be aid for the Dominican agricultural sector, with particular emphasis on extension services and marketing. Aid to the vital and financially-troubled banana industry will also be discussed by the two governments, the statement added. The proposed Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government meeting is also to be highlighted in the talks. The government statement said Dominica will express thanks to Trinidad and Tobago for its assistance following Hurricane David in 1979. The twin-islands state provided Dominica with assistance in the area of housing, education and health, following the hurricane, which devastated the agricultural sector, wrecked infrastructure and more than half the houses on the island. Today's statement said that Miss Charles will also meet with Dominicans residing in the oil rich republic before returning home. [Text] [FL181725 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 18 Mar 82]

CONSUMER GOODS CONTROL--Roseau, Dominica, 18 Mar (CANA)--The Dominica Government has placed a number of consumer goods on its negative list, including soaps, oil and juices saying that the importation of these commodities for which there are local equivalents, would require licences. According to an order published in the Official Gazette, "The supplies control (import licence) order 1982, made by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles was backdated to January 1. Among the other items on the list are dead poultry, eggs, vegetables (fresh or chilled), potatoes (not sweet), tomatoes, peas, and various beans, oils of various kinds, juices made from fruits available locally, whiskey, brandy, rum, cigarettes, soaps, and garments. [Text] [FL190219 Bridgetown CANA in English 1813 GMT 18 Mar 82 FL]

CSO: 3025/1057

GROUPS FAVOR SUMMER LINGUISTIC INSTITUTE

Concentration of Popular Forces

PA062022 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Mar 82

["Declaration of Santo Domingo de Los Colorados" signed on 5 March at an evangelical leaders' meeting sponsored by the Ecuadorean evangelical fraternity--recorded]

[Excerpts] The pastors, missionaries and leaders of the Ecuadorean Evangelical Church, gathered at a meeting called by the Ecuadorean evangelical fraternity in the city of Santo Domingo de Los Colorados on 4 and 5 March 1982, salute, with great feelings of unity and love, all brothers in Christ in our fatherland, in the name of Christ, the Savior and Lord of the church, and advocate the complete evangelization of all Ecuadoreans.

We demand respect for freedom of conscience and religion, which is guaranteed in the constitution, Article 19, No 5.

We reject the (?political) attacks against the Evangelical Church in this country by a political and religious sector. We deplore the fact that the national government has made the decision to terminate the agreement established with the summer linguistic institute, decree 11-59. We ratify our request that the agreement be extended for another 5 years, as stated in a document sent by the Ecuadorean evangelical fraternity to the president of the republic on (?22) September 1981.

We recommend that at the next assembly, the Ecuadorean evangelical fraternity present a report on the current situation, resources and needs of the Evangelical Church, in order to develop programs and strategies to fulfill the great Mathew 28 Commission [Gran Comision Mateo 28) during the present decade.

Evangelical Leaders

PA061958 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] In recent days it has been publicly reiterated that the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] is exerting pressure on President Oswaldo Hurtado's regime to create the Natural Resources Ministry, within the framework of the so-called power quota. It is also demanding that the summer Institute of Linguistics [ILV] continue to operate in Ecuador.

Regarding these matters, we consulted deputy (Julio Ayala Ferra):

[Begin Ayala Ferra recording] We have suggested to the national government that we should all work, really carry out work for the Ecuadorean people. This is our real concern. We have not demanded any new ministry. The country already knows that the minute the Industries and Commerce Ministry is divided in two--and this study was underway long before CFP joined the government--the CFP will receive the Industries Ministry. That is a fact. We are not demanding it, we are not [word indistinct], but we know that this will happen, perhaps in late April or May. CFP is aware of the country's realities.

As for having set the continued operation of the ILV as a condition for continued support of the government, this is not true either. We do favor the continued operation of ILV in Ecuador; we think that its activities in the east and in all of the Indian communities are really positive. We have been visiting the area and we are familiar with the importance of their activities.

Thus, knowing that the Ecuadorean state does not have the resources to run what the ILV will leave behind, we have concluded that although we cannot give the Indians the attention that the Ecuadorean state owes them, we can at least avoid withdrawing the attention that is being given them by the ILV.

This position is very clear and it is the position of the CFP bloc. We support the continued operation of the ILV. We realize that this measure must be adopted by the executive branch. They must thoroughly analyze it. Let us hope that in the end they will see things our way. [end recording]

CSO: 3010/1118

NAPOLEON DUARTE INTERVIEWED BY URUGUAYAN NEWSPAPER

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 21 Feb 82 pp 1-2

[Interview with Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte by special correspondent Miguel Carbajal, at the Government Palace; date not specified]

[Text] Our appointment has been scheduled for 1900 at the Government Palace. This is the time when bombs explode in San Salvador. The day before, explosive devices totally destroyed several telephone booths and blew a store located on a downtown corner to smithereens. Fortunately, there were no casualties. People do not leave their houses from 1900 to 2000 hours, avoiding the neighborhoods that the terrorists have singled out for devastation. Salvadorans have learned to live with violence, and this terrible habituation, paradoxically, is one of the reasons why the country has seen the beginning of the end of terrorism. Salvadorans no longer fear terrorism. Terrorism used to keep them off the streets and holed up in their houses for several months last year, but now it doesn't. The necessities of everyday life lay down more rigid rules than death itself. El Salvador lives, works and looks ahead in spite of the widespread violence enveloping the country. One has to live, and Salvadorans are living their lives. They keep off the streets when the bombs start to explode, but this terrible situation does not alter their habits. Store windows are closed, but people continue shopping there, just like any other day, just as they continue to frequent the market or the public square. They change their routes to bypass what could be the danger zones, but they keep on working as if nothing were happening. Death is a close presence, but incredibly it holds no fear. In spite of the war, El Salvador lives.

Seven in the evening at the Government Palace. The sun has just set after a resplendent day with a tropical temperature that might be too much for those who live in more southerly regions. In the gardens of the Presidential Palace the zanates, shiny black domesticated birds, have just taken refuge in the trees. Duarte arrives with exemplary punctuality

for our appointment. He has just gotten back from Honduras and has spent the day touring the critical areas in the east where the guerrilla war is spreading. He has had a tiring day and looks fatigued. He is in shirtsleeves. He promised to give the interview and he is keeping his word. He is an affable, courteous man, willing to grant the reporter all the time he needs in spite of the hurrying gestures that his personal secretary makes to him on several occasions. He has a hoarse, low voice that forces one to listen closely to understand him. In the midst of the interview a blackout leaves the Government Palace without light. The mishap does not alter Duarte's tone of voice, and he continues to speak as if nothing had happened until the power generating equipment starts up again.

[Question] President Duarte, I would like you to talk a bit about the March elections.

[Answer] Before discussing the elections, I would like to talk a bit about El Salvador and its longstanding desire to be free, a desire for freedom that has existed for 50 years now. Beginning in 1932 military regimes were installed in the country that were supported by the dominant segments of society in order to safeguard their privileges, their stability and their perpetuation, and from that point on, all of the enemies of the government were called communists, regardless of what they really thought or what side they were on. Just by being enemies of the government, just by being enemies of the powerful sectors, they were communists. So then, the people have been anxious to regain their freedom for the past 50 years. Moreover, we have to consider the culture broth in which the entire Salvadoran process has taken shape. We have an absolutely critical social situation in which more than 5 million persons are living in a small area of land (21,000 square kilometers with a great many enormous volcanoes), in which property is owned by a group of 300 to 100,000 persons while the rest of the country lives in poverty, in which there are all sorts of human eyesores, in which the people have lost all social values and in which the only thing they had left were religious values, which they also began losing after certain priests, some for very material reasons and others for ideological reasons, caused large segments of the people to gradually lose their faith because religion at one point became merely the performance of rites and at other times turned into a counterfeit revolutionary force.

[Question] So there was no place for democracy in El Salvador?

[Answer] For 20 years we proposed democratic solutions in El Salvador, but all possibilities of democracy were crushed. I was elected president in 1972 and prevented from taking office. This move, which forcibly decreed the death of a democratic rebirth, not only frustrated the people but also marked the inexorable decline of the entire previous process. I went into

exile, as you know. And then the kidnappings, the radicalizations, the total frustrations began. The economy began to weaken, and capital began to flow out of a country with a shaky economy. Economically, the country depends on three items (coffee, sugar and cotton). In addition, a fictitious industry and industrial economy were being developed, fictitious because they were based on a nonexistent market. All of these developments led to crises at given moments, and it was in 1978 and 1979 that the total crisis arrived.

[Question] A country without options?

[Answer] At the time the country had only two options. One was to keep things as they were, ruthlessly. This meant that the powerful privileged forces had to ally themselves with the army to crush any desire for justice. This option would meet head on with a liberation movement, which would inevitably lead to a confrontation with thousands and thousands of casualties. The other option is the one being proposed by the leftist revolutionary sectors, which have taken to insurgency and are trying to generate major action by the masses and gain support to do something similar to what happened in Nicaragua. Basically, you are right. Neither option was acceptable. It was a country without options.

[Question] And this is where the elections come in.

[Answer] Exactly. I returned to the country at this awful time. I had been in exile in Venezuela for 8 years and I have been proposing since then that the only viable solution was to make El Salvador a genuinely free country, safeguarded from the improper uses of power and from violence manipulated from abroad. The improper uses of power had to cease because power rests solely with the people. Therefore, it is not just to try and impose things on the people, for good or for bad reasons. The Right and the reactionary factions do not have the right to impose their will on the masses, and the terrorists, with their brutal violence, with their kidnappings and with their slayings, do not have a right to impose their will in a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. What I was proposing was a third option: a revolution within democracy, social changes in freedom, freedom and justice together in democracy. From this stemmed, among other things, the nationalization of banking and an agrarian reform that has distributed land among the peasants, first off by eliminating all holdings greater than 500 manzanas [1 manzana=about 1 3/4 acres]. This process is thus moving us towards the goal of freedom and justice, and here is where the elections come in. We obviously received a government with a de facto structure, and therefore this is a transitory government, although I am the only president freely elected by the people in the past 50 years. Therefore, our first duty is to give the people back this right. Thus, we have promoted the conditions for the country to stage free, really free elections in which the people alone can decide their destiny. This is the reason that I am here, the driving force behind my actions. We are giving the country a democratic option. We are giving the country a real alternative. El Salvador is now a country with options.

[Question] President Duarte, El Salvador has been continually accused of being a country in which abuses of authority proliferate. Is this an accurate charge? What is the situation at the moment?

[Answer] I found a country in which what we could call cultural violence was on the loose, a violence enmeshed in the abuse of authority. A power structure had developed in each little town, with the commander, the mayor, the judge, the secretary at the police station. These local power groups were able to abuse, able to take advantage of the most insignificant things on up to property, lives, pleasure or women. There were no limits to how this power could be exercised. This of course generated a structure. There is another factor that we have to bear in mind. The capabilities of these groups in the country were limited to the area that they covered and by the number of persons living there. Therefore, the regional security staff in each little town was very small in relation to the area and its inhabitants. This meant that they had to be very tough to exercise effective authority and they developed what I called the authority of terror. Through this they maintained a social equilibrium. This is why it was easy for them to impose a dictatorship. This is why it was easy for them to impose government parties. This is why it was easy for them to engage in election fraud. There was already a natural infrastructure that made all these moves possible. There was a situation of widespread violence. When the other kind of violence entered the picture, the country was not psychologically prepared to cope with it, because what is being proposed is to do away with the old violence through a new violence. This idea did not, of course, emerge from the people. The people are in the middle of a confrontation between the ruling sectors and those who have come here with malice aforethought to get the people to react without gauging the consequences. The process is clear. The subversive factions arrive, grab a commander and shoot him in the public square. This touches off a cycle of revenge on both sides. This happened all over the country, in each little town. When I got back, one of my jobs was to put an end to this situation by combating the guerrillas and abuses of power at the same time. We had to gradually take control of the entire country, town by town, place by place, until we dismantled a structure that had been in place for decades. It was not easy, naturally. By now the situation has changed appreciably, and we have clearly mitigated the living conditions on which cultural violence was based.

[Question] Has this been the only avenue along which violence in El Salvador has developed?

[Answer] Unfortunately not, because there have been several avenues in this poor, devastated country. To the above I have to add that all those who were hurt by our reforms developed politicomilitary forces capable of causing violence too. These sectors believed that the reforms could be halted if they toppled the government. So they tried a whole series of moves, including violence, to overthrow the government. Besieged by the violence of these sectors and of the terrorists, the government has paid dearly for its survival with slain mayors and officials. More than 600 persons have been killed by the sectors that were trying to halt the process.

So then, we had the violence of the Left for its purposes, we had institutional violence, cultural violence, and we had the violence of the Right. The right wing and cultural violence of course had something to do with the country's security forces, and either by gaining or buying their complicity, they caused these forces to abuse their power. And the Left committed acts of violence, trying to make it look as if the government had committed them. The result was the image of widespread violence that the world had of El Salvador.

[Question] Aside from the guerrilla war, could we say then that the violence has diminished in El Salvador?

[Answer] Definitely. We have gradually gotten control of the situation. A year ago you could not have walked around the city, as I imagine you have. There was terror. Everyone was afraid of everyone else. No one knew where the bullets and death would come from. There are still terrorist acts, but they are much more localized. And the people now know what to expect. Everyone is not afraid of everyone else. What remains now is the specter of terrorism. In spite of the scares, people have gradually regained their calm and confidence. The people have confidence in themselves. They know that they can defeat terrorism. At the same time we have been gaining control over all abuses of power. There have been very difficult, much-talked-about cases. There have been problems. But we have gradually gained control, punished and fired all of the people in the Armed Forces or in government posts who have abused their authority. Little by little, then, we have regained control. I am not saying that we have regained complete control. There are abuses, and we are always having problems, but we are also always struggling to control things. We are struggling against an idiosyncrasy, against a system that I called cultural violence and that cannot be done away with overnight but that can be done away with if the will exists to do so. And this is what we are doing.

[Question] Can it be said that the decrease in violence has paradoxically brought about an increase in terrorism?

[Answer] Of course it can be, although one is not necessarily a product of the other. The increase in terrorism is a result of its military failure. The subversives organized their little groups, their action cells in every town, in every spot around the country and continually generated violence there. In June 1980 the Left decided that the time had come to turn these mass forces into an army and to make all these cells trained guerrilla groups, focusing on four major fronts. And then came the day that they had set for what they thought would be the great final offensive: 10 January of last year. Their offensive failed, and during the ensuing 6 months, until July 1981, the offensive gradually lost ground until Armed Forces dominance was stabilized. At that point they realized that they no longer had a capacity for military response, but they did have a great deal of capacity for surprise guerrilla action. They then occupied those base points to undertake commando actions, which is what they have been doing up to now. So then, the strategy that they have pursued is a terrorist strategy in which they murder, kill, kidnap, destroy, burn buses, sabotage the entire power and communications

system, set fire to factories, plant bombs. And they have carried out two or three very important actions, designed to create a climate of tension. One was planned for 15 September of last year; at a time when we were going to talk about peace, they destroyed a bridge (on the Lempa River), the bridge that is a symbol of the country. And then on 27 January, when we were preparing for the elections, once again trying to come up with a viable formula for peace, they did two things: they attacked the Military Base, destroying aircraft, and murdered a public figure, which was a prelude to a potential series of murders, leveling death threats at the entire cabinet. This then was their response to a proposed political solution.

[Question] So they want neither peace nor elections...

[Answer] A really intelligent observer was telling me the other day that this is their way of taking part in elections. They do not believe in the ballot box, they do not believe in democracy, but they cannot keep from taking part. So they take part by killing, but they do take part. The important thing is that if the elections are a success, people are not going to be able to claim afterwards that the Left did not take part, because it did take part in accordance with its own approach and view.

[Question] With the logical exceptions, haven't the elections failed to heighten cooperation among the various strata of the Salvadoran population?

[Answer] I would say that they have, little by little. It is obvious, however, that there are elements that do not wish to cooperate.

[Question] What elements?

[Answer] The Left, for example, does not want to cooperate in anything. and the Right does not want to cooperate in anything. I said in a speech a few days ago that if we are in a war, and this is an ideological war, and if the Left wants to break the people's working spirit, the country's strategy should obviously be to keep up its working spirit, to give the people cause for optimism, to enable the people to keep on working and struggling, as you have seen. Destroying this spirit with attitudes is playing into the hands of the Marxists, and all to defend interests and privileges. The Right is worried, and rightly so, that the country has no foreign exchange and is blaming the government for this. They are saying that this is a disaster and that the government is the sole culprit. Some leadership groups in production institutions, but not all, are always talking about a coup d'etat. This is the other group that has not given us its support either. There are also counterfeit Church factions that have denied us their support. But the majority of the people are more actively engaged in cooperation with us.

[Question] Have the people expressed their backing for the government in some concrete way?

[Answer] Yes they have, and in the only way they could under these difficult circumstances. The guerrillas had called for a general strike. This was

10 January of last year, the day of the final offensive. The guerrillas were calling for a grassroots uprising and a general strike. I came out and told the people: "If you want to support the guerrillas, now is the time. If you think that the guerrillas are the solution, go on strike. But if you do not believe in the guerrillas, I'm going to propose something to you. I cannot summon you to a rally in the public square every day so that you can voice your disagreement with and opposition to the guerrillas. Nor do I want to put you in danger of being killed. What you can do is go to work every day. If they call on you to go on strike, don't respond. Go to your jobs." And everyone went off to work. This marked the defeat of the guerrillas. From that day on the Far Left has never again felt like calling a general strike.

[Question] What is going to happen if the elections proceed normally and successfully?

[Answer] I think that first of all the democratic solution will be legitimized. The chances for peace will be bolstered. There will no longer be any valid reason to question the governmental process. The reforms will be carried out on schedule. Land will be assured for the peasant farmers. Freedom through the institutional process will be assured. El Salvador will be assured a future that has been denied it up to now. The elections will establish a legitimacy in the eyes of Salvadorans and in the eyes of the world. When a government and a people are struggling for their survival against guerrillas, things are different when the government is legitimate and responsive to the will of the people. The substance of the struggle changes. The leftist factions that claim to represent the people are going to find out that they are not their representatives, that other groups are representative of the masses. Thus, things will be placed in their true perspective. The nations of the world are going to thus forget about the image that the Left has conveyed to them and are going to begin realizing that everything that they had been told was untrue. This will make possible greater support for the Armed Forces, even from a military standpoint, and will weaken leftwing guerrilla factions, because a free expression of the will of the people can only demoralize them. And it is going to demoralize them. Many of them are surely going to look for another solution, and we are going to grant them amnesty so that they come and join us.

[Question] Could the election lead to a weakening of the economic and military support that the guerrillas are receiving?

[Answer] In the first place, it is going to be hard for Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya and all of the others who have taken the same stand to justify the massive economic and military aid that they are providing the guerrilla factions, aid that they are proclaiming at the top of their voices, all of them, with Fidel Castro in the lead. A few weeks ago Arafat said straight out not only that he had pilots and jets in Nicaragua but also that he had guerrillas in El Salvador.

[Question] President Duarte, what is your message to the Salvadoran people in the remaining days before the election?

[Answer] I will repeat the words that I spoke some time ago in a message to the Salvadoran people. "These last 4 months," I said, "are going to be very tough. We are living in crucial times for El Salvador. But once these 4 months have passed, we will have hit bottom and we will see before our eyes the hoped-for beginning of progress in all fields. Time is working to our benefit. Time is on our side. I have faith and confidence in my people." You have seen for yourself: This is a brave, hardworking people, a people that is not daunted by adversity, a people that suffers, that goes hungry but that works and keeps moving forward. A people like this cannot be defeated and can never be trampled on.

8743

CSO: 3010/1035

ARENA'S D'AUBUISSON INTERVIEWED BY GERMAN NEWSPAPER

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 9 Mar 82 p 10

[Report on interview with Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of ARENA, by Juergen Koch: "A Colt .45 Is Lying On the Table During the Interview--A Visit to 'Arena's Headquarters in El Salvador"]

[Text] San Salvador, March--Among the seven major parties participating in El Salvador's election campaign, the headquarters most sought out by foreign journalists is that of ARENA, an acronym for Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (Nationalist Republican Alliance). In residence there is former Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, 38, a fast talker who makes a very dynamic impression. Like all other headquarters, this one may be entered only after the visitor has been searched for weapons several times--the term "headquarters" is apt. In the courtyard and in front of the entrance armed civilians are posted, equipped with rifles and pistols of varied manufacture. One guard is lazily toying with a gun which might be suitable for hunting elephants.

A number of party workers are sitting in the entrance hall; they look like members of the upper middle class. A few poorly dressed people are sitting around too; some are being helped to organize their documents which they will need to vote. After a wait of some 90 minutes, the party leader summons me. He is obviously enjoying being interviewed by a German journalist. During the interview a Colt .45 is lying on the table. One of his assistants, who shows military bearing, is operating a tape recorder. To the question as to his party's ideology, the ex-major replies that he is firmly committed to the Western democratic camp. "We believe in representative democracy, free enterprise and the human rights charter."

In El Salvador, d'Aubuisson is said to be maintaining close contact with rightwing radical members of the security forces. Some Salvadorans even believe that he is at least the spiritual leader of the "Mano Blanca's" killer squads--there is of course no proof of this. The former major, who has subjected himself to the government's amnesty decree for political extremists of the Right and Left, has formulated his political credo as a "pacification program."

Asked about "pacification," d'Aubuisson tries to explain the program. In doing so, he starts with the period of the middle 1960's when the Olas

conference took place in Havana. At that time, says d'Aubuisson, the plan for a communist takeover of the Latin American continent was conceived. "We Salvadorans have had problems ever since." The agile former officer explains: "Look here, what we have in El Salvador is not a civil war; it is an internal state of war." This is the case because forces directed from outside the country are trying to ruin the country. ARENA's most important task in the constitutional national assembly will therefore be to insert a major article into the constitution which will define the "internal state of war" and especially what action is necessary on that subject.

"An internal state of war will be declared, which will avoid our being involved in a national state of war, which would lead to Vietnamization." A German reader might be confused by this. But there is a clear idea behind this: in proclaiming an "internal state of war," El Salvador's entire economy and politics are to be programmed for that condition. That in turn means that all economic and power factors are to be mobilized against that threat--no one will be exempted. D'Aubuisson gets more specific: "Look, it would be better to spend about 3 months in concentrating all efforts to fight subversion, than to face chaos for years on end." The ex-officer plans to use force against all armed rebels, against people who commit economic sabotage--they must be "destroyed" ("deben ser destruidos")--in other words, liquidated. Salvadorans who admit to being Marxists or who even teach it, are not to be bothered. "In my view, the proclamation of an internal state of war is the only way of avoiding an internationalization of the conflict." D'Aubuisson is firmly convinced that foreign powers--he mentions Nicaragua in this context--are trying to incite a regional conflict. These enemies, by destroying the economy, are trying to create chaos in El Salvador which in the long run is designed to facilitate the extension of the conflict.

Asked whether ARENA plans to enter into a coalition with other rightwing parties in order to attain its goals in the constitutional national assembly, d'Aubuisson says: "The word 'coalition' is not entirely appropriate--I prefer the word 'coordination.' There are other parties whose ideologies are somewhat similar to our own. I do believe that we will get enough votes to have our proposals enacted, and that later on we may even form a government." Conciliacion Nacional, the former governing party, and the Christian Democratic party. In any case, the Christian Democrats pose a danger for the ex-major. They are, he says like water melons--green on the outside, red on the inside. Green is the color of El Salvador's Christian Democrats. D'Aubuisson becomes agitated when he talks about the Christian Democrats: "They may by all right in other countries; but here they are wolves in sheep's clothing." And he adds that whenever a Christian Democrat complains in El Salvador, "the entire international Christian Democratic pack starts howling."

ARENA is of course also trying to establish international contacts. It addresses itself to rightwing parties in Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Guatemala; President Reagan is considered a "sensible" man. The party leadership believes that ARENA will get about 15 percent of the votes in the March 28 elections. The only question remaining is whether or not ARENA might be suspended at the last moment, because ex-major sometimes gets so carried

away by his ideas that he says things which should not be said in public--like calling out the armed forces, or quitting the reform government which is composed of military officers and Christian Democrats. His proclamation is considered a clear incitement to rebellion. Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia's indignant comment on this: "It is the task of the central election council to put an end to this absurdity."

9273

CSO: 3103/327

PRESIDENT-ELECT ON RAPPROCHEMENT WITH U.S., CACM

PA181506 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT
16 Mar 82

[Text] President-Elect Gen Angel Anibal Guevara Rodriguez has said that he will seek the revival of the Central American Common Market [CACM] and Central American economic integration after he takes office on 1 July. He said that he is very interested in reviving the CACM and Central America's economic integration.

General Guevara replied to a query concerning rapprochement among the highest ranking Central American authorities by stating that he will analyze the possibility of calling for a presidential summit conference of Central American presidents. He said that the decision will be made after consultations at the cabinet level. He added that the decision to propose a summit will be based on consultations with his government team to determine whether it necessary to promote a high-level meeting. It will depend on the analysis which will determine the benefits which a summit might have for our country.

General Guevara is concerned with promoting a substantial rapprochement with Ronald Reagan's administration. He said that he is interested in promoting a greater identification with the United States. He added that his concern is to achieve a rapprochement of mutual respect with the United States, but said that any rapprochement or identification with President Ronald Reagan's administration or any other U.S. President must be based on principles of mutual respect befitting sovereign and independent nations.

Guevara reaffirmed that his foreign policy will be very healthy [saludable] and vigorous with all the democratic peoples of the world, always maintaining an absolutely independent and sovereign line within the concert of nations.

CSO: 3010/1096

PRESIDENTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS VIEWS 'ABC' REPORT

PA180000 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT
16 Mar 82

[Text] One of the most important U.S. television networks, ABC, has released a report on the situation in Guatemala, before, during and after the elections. The author of this report is Gerardo Rivera, a Puerto Rican who was beaten by Guatemalan security forces in the incidents on 6th Avenue when the presidential candidates, discontent with the results of the elections, marched on the Presidential Palace.

Newsman Rivera dedicated his entire report to political violence in our country. Today Carlos Toledo Vielman, presidential public relations secretary, commented on the attitude of the ABC newsman.

[Begin recording] I am not aware of the U.S. newsman's actual statement. I feel, however, that he has shown a lack of awareness and responsibility since in due time, the government presented an official explanation for the small incident he suffered in the fulfillment of his duty last Tuesday when street rioting erupted.

As a newsman I can tell you that, within this profession, we are perfectly prepared for any such incidents. When an emergency occurs the security forces cannot tell if the man with the blond hair or the white shirt is a newsman and another person is not. There can be no distinctions at such pressing moments.

Unfortunately, it happened to a newsman who, possibly resentful, has made a statement completely divorced from Guatemalan reality. [end recording]

CSO: 3010/1096

NEWSPAPER DIRECTOR HOPES FOR RETURN TO NORMALCY

PA170210 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Commentary by (Felix Loarca Guzman), director of EL INDEPENDIENTE]

[Text] Everything is all over. The temperature of political agitation is returning to normal. There is no question that in the area of electoral politics, everything is over and done with. The congress of the republic confirmed Gen Anibal Guevara and Ramiro Ponce Monroy as the new rulers of Guatemala in a second round of elections on Saturday night. After completing the vote count by law, the Senate rejected an annulment request submitted by the National Liberation Movement [MLN].

In this historic legislative session, very quaint things took place, events that are typical of Guatemalan political folklore. These include the fact that only 52 of the 61 deputies who make up the legislature were present. Of these, 39 voted in favor of General Guevara and Ponce Monroy, while 13 MLN deputies cast blank votes. Other members of the MLN bloc, including Lionel Sisniega Otero, who was a vice presidential candidate, simply did not attend.

The members of the Christian Democratic minibloc, representatives (Guillermo Geoff Aceituno) and Ricardo Gomez Galvez, were also absent from this congressional session. The blank votes cast by the 13 MLN deputies can be explained by the fact that, prior to the session, Mario Sadoval Alarcon [MLN presidential candidate] had announced that he would not participate in the second round of elections. On the other hand, the fact that two of the three deputies of the Nationalist Authentic Central [CAN] voted with the progovernment deputies caused surprise, because almost at the same time, their political party had released to the media a declaration signed by the CAN presidential candidates, Gustavo Anzueto Vielman and Luis Alfonso Lopez, in which they stated: The fraud that we continuously predicted was fully realized.

During this solemn session, some deputies, including Jorge Bonilla Lopez, the president of the congress, praised the legislature's electoral action, stating that the opportunity for free political expression had been provided; therefore, respect should be shown for the position of loyal party followers who did not support the parliamentary majority's choice for president and vice president.

Jose Trinidad Ucles, one of the top-ranking members of the government coalition, said in commenting on the event that it is especially significant that by this choice, the constitutionalist regime will be preserved.

In this regard, much remains to be seen and, of course, there is much that could be said. While it is true that the entire procedure carried out so far would tend to preserve the constitutionalist regime, it is also true that the price we have had to pay is very high. We newsmen could hardly overlook the fact that, under the pretext of maintaining the constitutionalist regime, it was found necessary to violate the constitution itself. There are more than enough examples of this, but this one will do. In an arbitrary, capricious manner, and in an abuse of power, certain officials decided on their own to reject the news media credentials recognized by the state and issue special identification cards to allow newsmen access to the various sources of information linked to the electoral process.

All this is a real violation of the constitutional principles and the law on freedom of expression which guarantees newsmen unrestricted access to all sources of information.

The precedent is very sinister, since it is a serious attack on the principle of freedom of information. Apart from this, there is every indication that the excitement of the political campaign has now waned and that things are gradually returning to normal. Let us hope so. Although we cannot expect peace to come at one stroke in a country plagued with hunger, poverty, inequality and injustice, we do believe that it is necessary to return to work and to our usual activities, thus doing our part to help solve the great economic and social problems confronting our brothers throughout the national territory.

Let all this be done for the good of Guatemala.

CSO: 3010/1096

BRIEFS

ELECTIONS, INSURRECTION--(Carlos Cardenas), member of the Political Commission of the Guatemalan Labor Party [PGT], has told Radio Havana that what the PGT sought by kidnapping reactionary Alvaro Contreras Velez, director and co-owner of the newspaper PRENSA LIBRE of Guatemala, on 5 March was to express its repudiation of the elections that were to be held in Guatemala 3 days afterwards. (Cardenas) said that this action sought to instruct the people as to how they should react to the elections orchestrated by the regime to justify a military solution to the conflict in Guatemala. He recalled that the only demand the PGT posed was the publication of a document denouncing the electoral farce, which was done by the leading news media of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and the United States. Regarding the spread of the revolutionary struggle, (Cardenas) stressed that this [is] a consequence of the physical conditions affecting the people and the incorporation of Guatemalan peasants and Indians into the insurrection as the only means to end their plight. [Text] [PA181717 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Mar 82]

FUEL PRICE REDUCTION--The Guatemalan Government has decreased fuel prices at the pump effective 15 March. The new prices to the consumers are: super gasoline, 1.96 quetzals per gallon; regular gasoline, 1.90 quetzals. This means that super gasoline was decreased by 13 cents and regular gasoline was decreased by 14 cents. [PA182145 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 82 PA]

CSO: 3010/1096

PPP'S JAGAN CALLS FOR GUYANESE SUPPORT

FL151339 Bridgetown CANA in English 2035 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 14 Mar (CANA)--Guyana's opposition leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan, has called on Guyanese to rally around his Marxist People's Progressive Party (PPP) to bring an end to what he says are the harsh anti-working class policies being effected by the Forbes Burnham government.

The veteran PPP leader made the call at a public meeting in Kitty, the birthplace of President Burnham. Hundreds of people attended the meeting.

The meeting took place as the General Council of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) was holding a three-day meeting to discuss a series of drastic proposals presented by vice president for economic planning and finance Desmond Hoyte to check the country's economic decline.

Guyana is faced with a severe foreign exchange crisis which has been aggravated by 1981 shortfalls in the country's three most vital export products--rice, bauxite and sugar.

The package proposes the retrenchment of workers in sectors of the public service which are over-staffed and also suggested serious cuts in imports of a number of items, including beverages such as ovaltine, and milo, cheese, split peas, and a reduction in the importation of flour.

The General Council meeting is being addressed today by President Burnham who is likely to announce the date for the presentation of the 1982 budget.

Informed sources said the budget would be presented before the end of this month, possibly on March 22.

CSO: 3025/1056

ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA REPORTED

FL151335 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 14 Mar (CANA)—Canada and Guyana discussed bilateral relations and the early convening of a round of global economic negotiations to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries during a meeting of their foreign ministers here yesterday.

Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, said his talks with his Canadian counterpart, Mark McGuigan, were "cordial and useful."

The discussions were held at the Timehri International Airport where Mr McGuigan briefly stopped over from Brazil en route to New York, to join his counterparts from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and the United States to discuss aid for the Caribbean region. This meeting began today.

Mr Jackson told CANA that the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) in which Canada is to participate, and Venezuela's claim to five-eighths of Guyana were among other matters he had raised with the Canadian external affairs minister.

The United States recently announced its contribution to the CBI, which has been conceived as a vehicle funneling aid into the region. Neither Canada nor the other participating countries--Venezuela and Mexico--have yet announced their contributions.

But the Canadian High Commission in Georgetown announced that Ottawa was stepping up its financial assistance to the region to more than 400 million dollars (Can) over the next five years.

It also announced that Canada would shortly resume assistance to strife-torn El Salvador and Guatemala, as soon as the current level of violence in the two Central American states had subsided.

CSO: 3025/1056

COUNTRY FAILS TO MEET DEBT PAYMENTS

FL181720 Bridgetown CANA in English 1620 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 18 Mar (CANA)--Guyana last year failed to meet foreign debt payments including vital compensation for the bauxite industry, nationalised in 1971, the state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper said today.

The country also failed to meet compensation bills for the sugar industry, which was also taken over from its British owners by the government, the paper said.

Quoting Finance Minister Shallahuddin, the CHRONICLE said Guyana has been forced to work out revised repayment arrangements with creditors until the crippling foreign exchange crisis improves. No figures were given.

Bauxite, sugar and rice, the key foreign exchange elements in the Guyana economy, last year together lost more than 200 million dollars (1 Guy dollar ; 33 cents U.S.), daunting the outlook for 1982.

Reduced production and falling prices combined to slash the contribution from sugar alone by a massive 74 million dollars.

Bauxite and rice also registered production shortfalls and reduced earnings.

Earlier this week, the finance minister said the foreign exchange problems were facing not only government agencies, but private businessmen as well.

He said "Some have had to scale down operations while others face near closure. They are finding it hard to get foreign exchange to pay off creditors for supplies."

The CHRONICLE quoted the minister as saying that on the compensation issue, when installments due in 1981, fell, the most Guyana could do was to negotiate with the creditors "telling them of our best intentions."

The seriousness of the financial crisis in Guyana was underlined last weekend by vice-president for economic planning and finance, Desmond Hoyte, who is reported to have said the country was bankrupt.

CSO: 3025/1056

OIL MONOPOLY VIOLATES CONSTITUTION

PA180450 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The oil monopoly known as Petronsa violates the national constitution. The executive branch did not submit the trusteeship contract with the armed forces bank to bidding.

The constitution prohibits the creation of monopolies. The trusteeship contract should have been approved by the national congress.

This station is again discussing one of the most delicate and important topics of our national life. This affirms our charge against the oil monopoly, which could become one of the most unwise decisions of this administration. Prominent lawyers and economists concluded a special analysis this weekend. The conclusions of this analysis will be sent in a document to the national congress and the presidency. This discloses an issue we had already reported. New elements have appeared now that makes this monopoly appear as a mere insignificant corporation made up of transportation owners and a military bank. However, this company has turned into the largest oil corporation, with powers that go beyond the national constitution.

The Paz Garcia administration went beyond the 1975 constitution that was then in effect. However, when the Suazo Cordova regime inherited the problem, it reinforced the violation, not only our basic laws, but of our international agreements.

CSO: 3010/1097

SEAGA DEFENDS GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM

FL181735 Bridgetown CANA in English 1633 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 18 Mar (CANA)—In a sharp response to critics of his administration, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said last night that his economic adjustment programme had been "deeply thought out" and was the most comprehensive development strategy ever undertaken by Jamaica.

Mr Seaga said at the opening of a trade show that the full strategy would be unveiled next month when he presents the 1982/83 budget to parliament.

Following that, the government would have talks with interests groups, such as manufacturing and export lobbies and trade unions, on the finer details of the strategy, he announced.

One of the cornerstones of the 16-month-old government's strategy is a structural adjustment exercise that will move industry here away from import substitution to aggressive export manufacture.

A prelude to the implementation has been to deregulate the economy, with a long-term view of removing all restrictions on imports, and probably, the movement of foreign exchange.

In February, the government removed 60 items from the restricted imports list and ran into a barrage of criticism from manufacturing interests here who charged that they were being opened up to competition cheap imports before being given the tools with which to compete.

Some small manufacturers harbour fears of being swamped by big foreign concerns that might be encouraged by the government's investment attraction programme, and last month, Mr Seaga's party warned of the need for the administration to go about the structural adjustment programme with care.

At last night's trade show, sponsored by the exporters and manufacturers associations, the prime minister conceded that the programme had not been fully explained to the Jamaican people.

He added however that the process involved the development of principles and concepts better left to budget time.

"I recognise that there are those who feel that the strategy is being developed on an ad hoc basis because they do not have the information as to what is contemplated," the prime minister said.

"I would like to take the opportunity to advise them that far from being ad hoc, it is a deeply thought out process, and one that ranges far and wide--over the financial area, the area of industry, the area of agriculture.

"It is the most comprehensive development strategy that this country will ever have embarked on," he added.

Mr Seaga did not enunciate the elements of the strategy, but said that it involved "a wide range of studies before certain steps can be taken."

These studies would begin immediately after the budget presentation.

However, the bottom line of the programme is to dramatically increase the country's foreign earnings from manufacturing exports, and he again underlined the necessity of this.

In a point aimed at manufacturers who have recently been needling the government because of a shortage of foreign exchange to import raw materials, Mr Seaga reminded that they were not a net earner, but a net user of foreign exchange.

He noted that the manufacturing sector depended on sources such as tourism, agriculture and foreign borrowings for 70 per cent of its foreign exchange requirements, and said that it would have to close or significantly narrow that gap.

"What you have before you is not a challenge but a threat, because conversion of domestic manufacturing to exports is a matter of survival."

The prime minister, however, struck a conciliatory tone, saying that the sector during the period of the former Michael Manley government had passed through crises and had shown the capacity to survive.

He felt that the manufacturers would undoubtedly meet the new challenges and respond to new opportunities, such as those offered under the United States Caribbean basin initiative.

Mr Seaga repeated that in Jamaica, foreign exchange flows during the first half of the year usually trickled, which was the cause of the problem now being faced with import licences.

He also rejected statements that the investment attraction programme was not yielding the anticipated dividends.

CSO: 3025/1054

SEAGA CALLS FOR CLOSER TIES WITH HAITI

FL152210 Bridgetown CANA in English 1818 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 15 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica's prime minister, Edward Seaga, has suggested that the Caribbean Community, a 12-nation group of English-speaking countries, should have close ties with Haiti, where a right-wing dictatorship is in place.

Said Mr Seaga, "I myself would like to see the Caribbean look at Haiti, not as a country outside the Caribbean system, but one with which we should have relationships that would tend to bring Haiti into the system. We can't do this by ignoring Haiti."

He conceded: "At the same time the CARICOM group would find it difficult to deal with Haiti because of the different standard of living there, and what would result from industries established in Haiti being able to move exports freely throughout the CARICOM region."

But this was an economic problem, Mr Seaga noted, which did not eliminate the fact that the country was part of the Caribbean.

"I don't believe you can walk away from the problems in your region. You must face up to them," Mr Seaga said. "You must begin to probe and explore all you can, to establish relationships that would help to deal with some of the problems."

The Jamaica leader, in an interview published by the GLEANER newspaper, also talked about his government's attitude to Grenada, where a leftist government emerged after a coup, and about the Guyana-Venezuela border dispute, in which he said, Jamaica was willing to act as a mediator.

Last March, Michelle Duvalier, wife of the Haitian president-for-life, Jean-Claude Duvalier, and the Haitian foreign minister, Edouard Francisque, visited Jamaica.

Francisque had talks with the Jamaican junior foreign minister, Neville Gallimore, while Madame Duvalier was hosted by Mr Seaga's wife, Mitzy.

"It was a short visit, a get-acquainted visit for just part of a day, between two countries probing for a relationship," the Jamaica leader said.

Prior to that visit Dr Gallimore had been to Port-au-Prince and was quoted in the Haitian press as saying that Jamaica would seek to pull Haiti into the regional integration movement.

Haiti has since upgraded its consulate here into an embassy.

On why Jamaica had not spoken out against Grenada, Mr Seaga said: "I don't think we want to take unilateral positions. One can take unilateral positions, and then you can over-play your hand in terms of being too opinionated.

"I think it is a much stronger position, in a matter like this which really affects the entire Caribbean, because of the event to which there is a different system involved, that the Caribbean countries should be able to sit down and reflect on it, talk about it and deal with it, not leave it to individual opinions to be voiced from either our side or any other source..."

On whether Jamaica should take the lead against Grenada, with the likelihood of other governments following, the prime minister responded: "We are not reluctant to take the lead in matters of importance. We took the lead in our position vis-a-vis Cuba....

"But in a matter such as this you can either fight about it by being openly critical, in which case you sour relationships. Others looking on tend to be dissuaded in terms of whether they fall in line with one position or another. Or you can jointly hold discussions and hope that some sort of consensus will prevail, which is a much stronger position.

"And I don't think one should risk spoiling the possibilities of having a real consensus view by rushing into print or on the air with any unilateral or individual position."

The Grenada revolution was three years ago.

CSO: 3025/1054

BRIEFS

TALKS WITH FRG--Kingston, Jamaica, 13 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica's foreign minister, Hugh Shearer, held talks here today with the West German minister of economic cooperation, Rainer Offergeld. The Foreign Ministry said the discussions centered on economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr Offergeld arrived here yesterday from Nicaragua and leaves tomorrow for home. He is expected to meet Jamaica's prime minister, Edward Seaga, tomorrow. The Foreign Ministry also confirmed that Mr Shearer would leave here Monday for Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, and announced that a planned visit to Guyana was off. The foreign minister will discuss bilateral and regional matters including the proposed Caribbean Community (CARICOM) summit, with his counterparts in Port-of-Spain and Bridgetown. The Foreign Ministry said that the visit to Guyana was off because no "mutually convenient" date could be found. [Text] [FL132328 Bridgetown CANA in English 2305 GMT 13 Mar 82]

SEAGA MEETS FRG MINISTER--Kingston, Jamaica, 15 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica and West Germany are working on an economic cooperation programme, and projects here to be financed by Bonn are to be announced when the West German president, Karls Carstens visits Jamaica early next month, it has been announced here. According to Jamaica House (prime minister's office), the likely programme for financing over the next two to three years were discussed yesterday between Prime Minister Edward Seaga and the West German minister of economic cooperation, Rainer Offergeld. Mr Offergeld left here last night after a two-day visit, during which he also had discussions with Foreign Minister and Foreign Trade Minister Hugh Shearer. Jamaica House said that Mr Seaga and Mr Offergeld also discussed an investment protection agreement and a technical cooperation pact being worked out between their countries. Foreign Minister Shearer late last year led a trade and investment mission to West Germany, and these developments are some of the spinoffs of the initiative. [Text] [FL152217 Bridgetown CANA in English 1825 GMT 15 Mar 82]

1981 DEFICIT--Kingston, Jamaica, 13 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica had a negative balance of visible trade of nearly one billion dollars (one Jamaica dollar : 56 cents U.S.), in 1981, according to the March Statistical Digest of the Bank of Jamaica (Central Bank), just released here. According to the bank's report, the CIF (cost insurance freight) value of the island's imports last year was 2,669.1 million dollars, while the fob (free on board) value of exports was 1,746.5 million dollars. The negative balance was 922.6 million dollars. The trade deficit totalled 371 million dollars in 1980. The BOJ Digest also showed that the external debt in January of this year was 1,989.6 million dollars, against 1,574.8 million dollars in January 1981. The consumer price index at the end of last December stood at 332.7, a rise of 15.2 points from December the previous year. The index rose from 246.7 in December 1979 to 317.5 in December 1980. [Text] [FL151207 Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 13 Mar 82]

CANADA PROVIDES TRAINING--Jamaica is among 10 commonwealth Caribbean countries which are to benefit from a five-year marine training programme costing approximately (Can.) \$2.34 million and involving 300 people. Under the scheme, which was announced by the Canadian Government on March 3, some 200 persons will be trained to operate and maintain small patrol boats using Canadian Coast Guard facilities. The other 100 persons will receive instructions in support operations to create or improve coast guard service in Antigua, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago. According to a Canadian high commission news release, emphasis will be placed on training crews from the islands to operate patrol vessels on inshore and coastal operations. Courses in pollution countermeasures, search and rescue techniques, logistics, instructor development, refrigeration and air-conditioning, will be included in the programme. In addition to this programme, Jamaica defence force coast guard trainees are in Canada attached to Canadian coast-guard ships operating on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. [Text] [FL181740 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Mar 82 p 1]

NORWEGIAN GRANT--Kingston, Jamaica, 13 Mar (CANA)--Norway is providing an additional 4.7 million dollars (one Jamaica dollar : 56 cents U.S.) for the construction of a maritime training institute here. The institute opened in 1980 with a 31.0 million dollars (JCA) grant and technical expertise from Norway, and a permanent facility is now being constructed. The latest agreement was signed by public utilities minister, Pearnel Charles and Norwegian Government officials. [Text] [FL171725 Bridgetown CANA in English 1932 GMT 13 Mar 82 FL]

CSO: 3025/1054

DENIALS ISSUED ON FOREIGN POLICY GOALS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Feb 82 pp 4A, 28A

[Article by Felicitas Pliego]

[Text] Mexico does not aspire to leadership or domination in Central America and the Caribbean. By offering its solidary aid to that region, Mexico does it with all modesty and full knowledge of the corresponding responsibility.

Pointing out the above, Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, undersecretary for economic affairs of the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, denied any underhandedness in the intentions of the Mexican Government with regard to that area, "as the international press attributes to us."

Navarrete emphasized that our country carries through its contributions with a long-term vision, with a historical perspective of our responsibility as a nation.

He added, "Obviously we have domestic needs, but there is no contradiction between continuing to make efforts to satisfy them and carrying on international cooperation. It is evident that the amount of resources destined for one or the other category indicates which is the essential priority."

With regard to the plan proposed for the Central American area and the Caribbean (mini-Marshall Nassau), the official indicated that Mexico will participate in it as long as it maintains the spirit with which it was created.

"The important thing about this plan signed in the middle of last year," he added, "is not to withhold or condition aid from the signatory nations - United States, Canada, Venezuela and Mexico - to a region which urgently needs it."

Navarrete emphasized that cooperation toward Central America and the Caribbean should involve other countries, Western Europe and Japan, and international organizations which recognize the needs of the area.

"The countries of the area, he pointed out, need economic, not military, cooperation. Mexico has expressed time and again its disagreement with bilateral agreements outside of the Nassau framework, although these may not be of a strictly military nature.

Economic cooperation is important because it helps to open channels of understanding and action in the face of political problems, as the work of the Development Committee of the Central American Isthmus, the only organization through which six countries of the area continue to talk among themselves, has already demonstrated. This, commented the official, obviously goes beyond the scope of simple economic aid.

Mexican Motivations Are Permanent

For Mexico, the motivations of foreign economic policy cooperation are permanent and respond to the country's sense of historical responsibility with respect to her neighbors in development. For some of its special manifestation and concrete projects, it is obviously necessary, commented Navarrete, to take into account the domestic economic situation. However, "I do not foresee any interruption of the principal programs."

In this sense, the undersecretary of economic affairs of SRE brought out that Mexican financial cooperation is linked strictly to the financing of domestic exports: "I do not foresee decrease. On the contrary, during this year, we are interested in emphasizing export sales, especially non-petroleum ones.

Here the official repeated the long-range vision which Mexico employs with respect to the aid which it furnishes: If a counter-argument applied it is possible to arrive at the conclusion that there would be more useful purposes for some of the resources which are utilized in this investment.

"However," he insisted, "by adopting a historical perspective, the actions of a country which assumes this responsibility not only justify themselves but become highly positive for all those involved. That is the example of the Development Committee of the Central American Isthmus."

Precisely for this reason, he went on, it is necessary to overcome the obstacles opposing economic cooperation, particularly those which appear in relatively advanced developing countries, which have linked their economies basically with those of the industrialized nations, and which present difficulties for understanding and cooperation between them.

Finally, Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, speaking of the Mexicans who have entered the United States illegally, stated that "this is a situation whose underlying cause must be corrected by our own development dynamics in the creation of jobs."

9678

CSO: 3010/982

PARTIES DEMAND REFUGEE STATUS FOR GUATEMALANS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Feb 82 p 4-A, 29-A

[Article by R. Hernandez L.]

[Text] In the face of the arrival in Mexico of thousands of Guatemalans persecuted by their government, four Mexican political parties demanded yesterday that their security be guaranteed, protecting them under the refugee statute, allowing the intervention of the special commission of the United Nations and denying all extradition.

This demand was made public yesterday by the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM], the Mexican Democratic Party, the Workers Revolutionary Party, and the Popular Socialists.

Carlos Martinez de la Torre, of the Workers Revolutionary Party [PRT], also informed at the end of last week that nine solidarity-with-Guatemala committees met in Cuernavaca, Morales, and agreed among other things to start a national drive, starting on the 15th, to collect food and clothing.

After authorizing the announcement of the creation of the National Revolutionary Guatemalan Association as the "urgent and necessary step to form a wider front to overthrow one of the worst dictatorships," as Amnesty International has classified it, the spokesman from PRT asserted that the Mexican Government is obligated to sign the Geneva protocol on refugees and to ratify the similar one known as the San Jose agreement which prohibits any massive expulsion.

Demand That They Be Given Guarantees

Mr Torres contended that it would be praiseworthy if the authorities appeared better disposed to having the United Nations Refugee Commission on Mexican soil to offer guarantees to the Guatemalans who flee and ask for asylum.

In accordance with the information given out by the aid committee in Chiapas, it is known that at least 4,000 citizens of Guatemalans are in Mexico in camps or in various other places.

"Therefore and because a more brutal reaction on the part of the Guatemalan Government is foreseeable, the Mexicans must refuse any expulsion because it

would be a death sentence. In addition, he asked that all forums be used to denounce "the atrocities" of that regime and that the possibility be considered to recognize in the new organization a force truly representative of the Guatemalan people, "as they really are."

For his part, Gumersindo Magana Negrete, president of the Mexican Democratic Party [PDM], also spoke up that in an eventual arrival of Guatemalans because of persecution or fear of "a brutal government," they would be accepted, according to law, as persecuted people and refugees, "whose lives are threatened."

Magana Negrete said "We do not recommend breaking relations with the Guatemalan Government," because it might mean protection which the citizens of that country need.

Interpreting the events in the neighboring Central American country, the director of the Mexican Democratic Party asserted that they are the result of the dispute between "the two imperialisms who wish to dominate the region."

Speaking for the Popular Socialist Party [PPS], Francisco Ortiz Mendoza stated that although an in-depth discussion on the part of their national board is lacking, it is understood that "the repressive bourgeoisie in Guatemala left no other option for the people who are doing everything to attain democracy," referring to the announcement of unification of four politico-military organizations.

We Should Break Relations: PPS

It is logical, he added, that as resistance is strengthened, repression increases. Therefore, he insisted on a position in his party with respect to relations with that government and El Salvador, that political and diplomatic relations be broken, which in the case of Guatemala exist now only on the basis of protocol.

The PPS is opposed to the return of any Guatemalans who flee to Mexico, "because it would mean sending them to their death," and he demanded that they be given full protection, whether it be with Mexican resources or allowing the United Nations to do it.

Finally, speaking for the political commission of PSUM, Marcos Leonil Posadas, after judging as a great statement the announcement of the unification and hoping that this goes forward without exceptions to other interested groups in this country, said that Mexico should confirm its solidary position.

"Under whatever legal form required, our country must assert the total respect for persecuted people and refugees and at the same time refrain from using our land for repression of Guatemalans.

9678

CSO: 3010/982

OJEDA PAULLADA REITERATES PRI ANTICOMMUNISM

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Feb 82 pp 1-A, 14-A

[Article by Isabel Zamorano]

[Text] Managua, Feb 21 -- "I will not go to Campeche as senator for any reason; I do not accept any orders to go to Campeche," assured Pedro Ojeda Paullada, president of PRI's CEN (National Executive Committee) yesterday, and reaffirmed that the party is anticommunist.

During an interview which took place shortly before the arrival of President Lopez Portillo in Managua, Ojeda Paullada was making reference to his possible senatorial nomination, which, he reiterated, he will turn down.

Ojeda Paullada was interviewed very close to the spot where a bomb exploded in the baggage area of this city's international airport.

A huge blood stain on the wall and pieces of clothing, papers, glass and other debris were very near the place where Ojeda Paullada was awaiting the arrival of the Quetzalcoatl I carrying the president of Mexico.

At this spot the PRI leader confirmed the words he had spoken last 13 February, that PRI is anticommunist.

But, he asked that an effort be made to fully understand what he said and how he had said it.

He explained that a meeting for party integration was being held on that date, during which the organizational and electoral process were being studied, specifically the aspects dealing with the spread of ideology, and at that time he explained that ideologic confrontation was necessary, as there can be no party if there is no ideology, and it is, therefore, necessary to sharpen political polemics.

Ojeda Paullada also added a series of explanations about the prefixes counter- and anti-, which are synonyms, and he repeated that as Mexicans we are ashamed to say that we are anticommunist because we confuse that concept with McCarthyism and witch hunts.

He pointed out as well that there will be 100 opposition delegates in Congress with the same rights as those of PRI, so that all ideologies may be aired and so there can be debate, and in order to disprove the assertion that the majority party is a simple electoral agency.

Also he reiterated that PRI is not communist.

On another matter, he indicated that the 3rd COPPPAL Meeting recognized the important role that Mexico plays in Central America, with a solid and firm attitude based on very clear international principles, and with a single purpose to achieve self-determination for the people, which is a fundamental principle of coexistence.

He commented, "we all agree that if this is not so, then any country may be subjected at any time to intolerable intervention."

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CSO: 3010/994

GALVAN LOPEZ: NO POLITICS IN THE BARRACKS

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 17 Feb 82 pp 1-a, 14-A

[Article by Carlos Portos]

[Text] Political parties should not have access to the barracks, since the army's unity would be endangered, asserted National Defense Secretary Gen Felix Galvan Lopez yesterday, and who also reaffirmed that Mexico is not a springboard for the Guatemalan guerrillas.

Gen Galvan Lopez made these statements yesterday after conferring decorations on 16 military leaders on the esplanade of the Officer's Club at the SDN (National Defense Secretariat) Main Estate, Military Camp Number One.

He maintained that no political party in Mexico should have access to the military installations. He asserted that if the political parties were to get into the barracks, then military opinion about discipline would be divided; However, he emphasized that the standards of military discipline should not be debated since they are traditional and common to armies all over the world.

Gen Galvan Lopez added that the soldiers, as Mexican citizens, have the right to vote, a right they will exercise at the next elections.

In this manner the National Defense Secretary rejected the demand made by the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) that the doors to the barracks be opened to political parties. General Galvan denied that Mexican territory serves as a springboard for the Guatemalan guerrilla. He affirmed, "the guerrilla is not being armed or protected in Mexico, of this the Guatemalan Government may be certain."

He emphasized that the Mexican army is Respectful and zealous about its national sovereignty, and about the preservation of the country's liberties, and he reiterated, "Mexico is not protecting the guerrillas from one side or the other."

The decoration ceremony for the 16 military leaders took place yesterday morning, beginning at 8:15 at the Division General Alvaro Obregon Military Camp.

The medals awarded were for technical merit, second class, and distinguished service.

General Victor Manuel Ruiz Perez received technical merit, second class for the development of a "Field Operations Manual" and a "Tactics Handbook for the Motorized Regiment".

Among the soldiers receiving the medals for distinguished service were Generals Edmar Euroza Delgado and Jesus German Porras Martinez, Col Luis Benitez Bibriesca, Lt Cols Mario Perez Juarez Navarrete and Nicolas Jorge Marin Zamarron.

It was explained that the Distinguished Service Medal was created "for the purpose of encouraging the soldiers who work with persistent tenacity, high spirits and untiring effort day after day, with no attention paid to the advance of the clock or the calendar."

The medals were authorized in accordance with Article 48 of the Law Governing Promotions and Rewards for the Army and Air Force of Mexico.

9730

CSO: 3010/994

BRIEFS

IMMIGRANTS DETAINED IN OAXACA--Antonio Rico Hernandez, a spokesman for the Immigration Service of the Government Secretariat stated that an average of 30 illegal immigrants per month [as published] from Central America, mainly Guatemala and El Salvador, are detained in this city and repatriated. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Feb 82 p 34-A] 9678

CSO: 3010/982

REPORT ON 'FACE THE PEOPLE' PROGRAM

PA182348 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT
16 Mar 82

["Face the People" program with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Rafael Cordova Rivas, members of the government junta; Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado, member of the FSLN National Directorate; Domestic Trade Minister Dionisio Marengo; Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy; and other officials, meeting with representatives of the Sandinist Workers Federation, with labor leader Lucio Jimenez acting as moderator, held on 14 March 1982; place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified questioner] With regard to supply, initially as a way of increasing our real wages, we demand that the commissaries that have been established in our work centers be completely stocked. In the case of sugar, we have seen a positive trend toward distribution by neighborhood. However, because of operational limitations, the product does not reach all sectors. Therefore, we have decided here that until the operational problem in distributing sugar is solved, distribution should be continued through the commissaries. Further, in the case of work centers in rural areas--that is, centers that are far from the most important cities in the departments and from Managua--sugar should be distributed through the commissaries, since it does not reach the rural centers.

Similarly, we demand that prices of basic consumer articles be strictly controlled, since we reached a consensus in the National Council [not further identified] to the effect that we are prepared to enforce the pricelist established by the proper authorities. [applause]

[?Marengo] As for the statements made on supplies, we have heard the statements made by Companero Lucio. Basically, we completely agree with his assessments and we will act in conformity with this. However, I think it advisable to clear up some matters. At times, there is talk of supplies in general, but I believe that there are at least three ways of viewing supplies, which should be explained.

First of all, we must know just what we believe to be basic or essential in this country; second, how many of these essential goods are available and in what quantity; and third, there is the matter of pricing. At times the problem of price is determined by scarcity and at times a product is more expensive because of its production costs, as you know.

Currently, the Nicaraguan Government is able to guarantee the following basic, essential products: rice, beans, corn, cooking oil, salt, sugar with its restrictions and limited quantities of chicken and eggs, which is to say not totally without restriction. This is guaranteed for all of the people.

This is a statement that we could not have made 6 months ago. You will remember that 6 months ago I appeared before the State Council and said that we did not have a quintal of rice in Nicaragua. We can now say something in Nicaragua that cannot be said in other parts of the world: We have guaranteed our staple food supply through various government policies to encourage production--aid to producers and improvement of our agricultural distribution system [sistema de captacion]. We have practically unlimited quantities of food. We even have reserves for times of war.

[(?Marenco) continues] The problems of prices, once we know what we have to offer and how much we can offer, becomes complicated by the fact that most of these products are subsidized. The government is subsidizing rice, beans, corn, sugar and so forth for our enterprises in the amount of approximately 8 million cordobas per day. It is obvious that since this country has a mixed economy, which includes a large amount of private production, and as the people sometimes prefer fresh products over other older products, the desire to obtain a better quality product puts pressure on prices.

I cannot promise to solve the price problem as you have defined it because it is impossible to do. There is no theoretical formula by which to establish price controls through a paper or a law.

The one thing that we have noticed in our daily experience is that the greater the people's organization, the greater our price control levels, for it is not only our will and our stockpiles that are at stake here, but the government's abilities and the large commercial network that exist in this country and that survives because of it. Small merchants probably [words indistinct]. Through our census we have estimated that there are approximately 25,000 small merchants, in addition to some 11,000 who work in the public markets.

You discussed the distribution of sugar in the neighborhood. This is the best way we found of guaranteeing both supply and price for the citizens: Why did we have to deal with the sugar issue that way? Simply because the amount of our sugar--although sufficient for the entire population--is not

excessive and cannot be squandered. Then speculation began, rumors spread and the rightist media began to create trouble and to promote more speculation, so we had to make the decision to ration and distribute it through our rank-and-file organization, the Sandinist defense committees.

To date, we have supplied sugar in this fashion to more than 500,000 people in Managua. As you can understand, distributing sugar to 500,000 people is not a simple task. There is no enterprise in Central America that can handle that kind of distribution to so many people. There are many complaints, of course. We have received approximately 500 specific complaints. There are people who are protesting because the CDs are forcing them to carry out guard duty or to go to meetings and because they are not being given the coupons and so forth.

However, I can give you the names and addresses of 500,000 people who are receiving sugar; therefore, the method is working. There is no need to use this method with other products, because we have them in sufficient quantities, as I explained, and they can be sold through the commissaries, the grocery stores, the markets and everywhere. But we must bear something in mind: we are now under a state of military emergency. The neighborhood distribution method will be used because it is way to guarantee that we will reach the lowest consumer level.

For this reason, we need you, in your role as [words indistinct], so that the neighborhoods will support the neighborhood organizational level, insuring that we can use that channel to distribute not only sugar but other things under difficult circumstances.

In conclusion, I must say that we can maintain the distribution of sugar in the commissaries for 2 or 3 more weeks, which we estimate will be the time necessary to completely cover Managua. There is another department, Esteli, which is completely covered in both the urban and rural sectors. Still, there are other departments that are lagging behind.

In the case of the rural settlements, [words indistinct] we are in complete agreement. We should make this distribution through the work centers and this is the policy that is being followed, in cooperation with the National Association of Farmers and Cattlemen. This explanation would be incomplete if it were not clearly stated here that, in addition to staples, we will have problems with other products that might be termed necessary, such as clothes, shoes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and all of that. We don't want to deceive you. I gain nothing by telling you that there will be plenty of those products when you will see the problem at the stores. These problems are due to bigger problems in the state and the economy. We are going to have to restrict the importation of this kind of products, and when they are imported they will have to be sold at higher prices. The effort to control prices is another goal that cannot be guaranteed.

A supermarket offers approximately 600 different products. You can imagine how hard it would be to fix a price for each product, by quality, by size or by color. This is much more difficult, but we will try it.

It is important, as I told you, that we can offer you solutions only to the extent that the people's level of organization improves and becomes consolidated. Otherwise, everything I have said here would be a lie. The only thing that we can say is that we have made great progress in terms of staples. We are getting ready to make great progress in terms of some 50 additional products, so as to have a more controlled and accessible supply for our people. [applause]

CSO: 3010/1094

DEPUTY MINISTER COMMENTS ON STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA180130 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1941 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Managua, 17 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Deputy Minister Victor Tinoco said today that the application of the state of emergency in Nicaragua will depend in many ways on the special regulations that will be established to deal with any situation that may arise.

Tinoco gave this response when representatives of the Mexican press asked him what would happen if party leaders criticize the government's measures and these criticisms are revealed abroad.

Tinoco stressed that the right to freely broadcast one's opinion is suspended in Nicaragua. He added that interpretations must be made under this option, not only on the basis of law, "but also on the basis of any situation that may arise."

The deputy foreign minister said that it is not the same thing for people to criticize the government during a threatening situation against Nicaragua "than during a less tense situation."

According to Tinoco, the Sandinist National Reconstruction Junta has created the legal means "to take the measures that it may consider necessary." Before declaring the state of emergency, the junta could not do this.

Responding to other questions, the deputy foreign minister said that the measures taken by the Sandinist government "have been received with a high degree of understanding."

He said that the majority of foreign governments have judged "the measures logical and necessary, considering the threatening situation and the reported sabotage; and precautionary against the threats and intended actions against Nicaragua."

Tinoco commented briefly on the position of the U.S. State Department, which has said that the intention of the measures taken in Nicaragua is to finish off the opposition.

"This is a diversionary tactic and an attempt to distract attention from what is internationally noted: that the state of national emergency is a response to foreign aggression from the United States. That is why (the Reagan Administration) doesn't share the opinion of other countries," added Tinoco.

HAVANA TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA

FL171920 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Havana telephone interview with Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of Nicaragua's junta of the Government of National Reconstruction]

[Text] [Question] Regarding the declaration of a state of emergency, yesterday the U.S. State Department made a series of statements on this, among them it said that this would be a prelude to a violent blow against the surviving democratic elements in Nicaragua. It would be interesting if you would tell us what are the real aims, the true reasons for this measure, and how have the Nicaraguan people received it?

[Answer] The true objectives of this measure is to create the necessary conditions to insure the defense of Nicaragua's territorial integrity and sovereignty in the face of an eventual foreign invasion or attack. The internal reaction has been very positive and favorable to the point where all the internal political, social and economic sectors have been commenting favorably.

[Question] On another subject, international public opinion and our people, the Cuban people in particular, have witnessed the resounding failure of the propaganda show staged by the State Department regarding the young Nicaraguan, Orlando Tardencillas. What is the opinion of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction regarding this event?

[Answer] What the U.S. Government demonstrates through that error is its lack of responsible action as called for in the critical circumstances and tensions presently being faced by the area of Central America.

[Question] Thank you very much Comrade Ortega. Would you like to say anything to the people of Cuba through this newscast?

[Answer] I would like to convey our greetings and affection to the Cuban people, to their government, to their leaders, and to Comrade Fidel, who have always known how to be in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

CSO: 3010/1094

AREA CHRISTIANS TO PROTEST 'U.S. INTERVENTION'

PA182330 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish
0200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] During Easter week, approximately 7,000 Central American Christians will be in the Amapala coastal area to participate in an event for peace and against U.S. intervention in the region. This information was provided by (Miguel Torres), director of the ecumenical (?council) of Nicaragua.

[Begin (Torres) recording] During a meeting held by more than 300 religious leaders in Jalapa, on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua, at which we prayed for peace, it was decided that during Easter week of 1982 approximately 7,000 Christians from Central America, representing all Christian churches, both Evangelical and Catholic, should meet. We also decided that Christians from other countries of the world should also be invited to pray for peace and to create awareness in the face of threats of war.

We are also asking all of the world's Christians to erect memorials in public squares and church [word indistinct] in all of the world's cities including in Europe and the United States. These memorials should bear the name of Nicaragua. This should be done on a day that will be called the day of brotherhood with Nicaragua and on that day, all of the people should hold hands and think of Nicaragua for 1 minute.

After that, these Christians are asked to send a stone to Nicaragua from each of the countries that participate in this symbolic expression of fraternity and solidarity, for use in building a monument as a remembrance of the struggle for peace in Central America. [end recording]

CSO: 3010/1093

FDN CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES

PA180340 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT
17 Mar 82

[Official communique No 4 issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces "some-
where in Nicaragua"--read by announcer]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Forces, FDN, the army of independence, informs the Nicaraguan people that on the evening of 14 March, FDN freedom commandos carried out an anticommunist guerrilla operation aimed at leaving the genocidal FSLN troops without two of their communication paths, thus neutralizing their ability to move. This operation consisted of the destruction of two bridges in the country's northern region, considered to be of great tactical and strategical value to the dictatorship in its criminal cleanup operations.

The Rio Negro bridge, located 5 km southeast of Somotillo in Chinandega Department, was completely destroyed by our troops at 2300 on 14 March. The bridge over the Coco River, located approximately 2 km from Ocotal in Nueva Segovia Department, was partially destroyed at 2300, thus completing the precise plans of this operation.

It must be stressed that these two operations were carried out only 250 and 300 meters, respectively, from FSLN military bases in the area.

The military objectives of our anticommunist guerrilla commandos were completely achieved because we were able to destroy these two important means of communication used by the FSLN dictatorship to mobilize its genocidal troops among the nearby military bases in the dictatorship's repressive operational zones.

We also inform the Nicaraguan people that the FDN forces proceeded responsibly to take strict security measures to prevent injuring innocent victims before dealing this new and bold blow to the mangy-dog enemy. Therefore, we can tell our people that our commandos' success is completely because there was not a single innocent victim and we were able to destroy these bridges that are of such tactical and strategic value to the dictatorship.

This new blow dealt to the military dictatorship of the armed frontist party discloses its vulnerability because of the proximity of the mangy-dog military bases to the destroyed bridges.

The FDN and its freedom troops reiterate once more our nationalist and revolutionary stance and tell the peoples of the world that the FDN will not cease in its struggle until it defeats the bloody military dictatorship of the Marxist-Leninist commanders.

With God and patriotism we will defeat communism!

God, fatherland, freedom or death!

CSO: 3010/1093

FSLN REPRESSION COMPARED TO SOMOZA DICTATORSHIP

PA182036 (Clandestine) Radio 15 Septmeber in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT
18 Mar 82

[Text] Just as under the Somoza dictatorship, this new dictatorship, that of the Marxist-Leninist commanders, is also suppressing the rights and guarantees of every Nicaraguan.

All dictatorships, because they are dictatorships, are similar. They are carbon copies of each other, regardless of whether they are extreme right or extreme left. Both are tragic and despotic, but they can be destroyed. The present dictatorship of traitorous Marxist-Leninist commanders, as under the Somoza dictatorship, has declared a state of siege [as heard] and martial law throughout the national territory. Once more we Nicaraguans have been arbitrarily and illegally stripped of our legitimate rights as citizens. Definitely, nothing has changed here in Nicaragua.

What is worse, we got rid of one tyrant and nine Marxists have seized the people's power and imposed in our fatherland the most opprobious dictatorial regime in the history of our fatherland. This new dictatorship, the dictatorship of the traitors, is using the clumsy pretext of possible foreign aggression against our country to impose a stage of siege and a martial law in our country to try to stop our revolutionary and nationalistic struggle, through which we propose to recover our revolution and return it to its legitimate owners, the Nicaraguan people.

With the state of siege the mangy dogs have suspended each and every citizenship guarantee established in the constitution, which were never fulfilled, including the freedoms of political activity, expression, to form unions, and others. At the same time, an order issued by the communications media directorate under the command of Tomas Borge suspended all radio newscasts, political party opinion programs--and those of any other organization--and imposed on all Nicaraguan radio stations the obligation to join a network with the dictatorship's official station.

This compulsory network reminds all the true revolutionaries of those other networks of Radio Difusora Nacional. With the state of siege and martial law imposed by the mangy dog commanders, every spoken and written news

media in the country has ordered to submit their daily broadcasts or issues to the communications media directorate of the terror ministry in order to pass the most stringent censorship, the censorship of the communists.

The state of siege and martial law imposed by the traitors of the Nicaraguan people, the mangy-dog Marxist commanders, according to the remarks of traitor Daniel Ortega Saavedra, was planned to be in force for 30 days. Radio 15 September, by resorting to its contacts and liaison infiltrated in the different FSLN regime departments, has reached the conclusion that the armed FSLN party plans to leave the state of siege and martial law in force indefinitely throughout the country. The permanent enforcement of the state of siege and martial law is a measure which has been considered and approved by the highest leadership of the armed [FSLN] party which seized power because it believes this to be the only means which the nine dictators have at their disposal to stay in power.

Radio 15 September responsibly denounces to the free and democratic world the criminal and genocidal plans of the mangy dog dictatorship on the permanent enforcement of the state of siege and martial law throughout our land. Radio 15 September, the vanguard voice of a betrayed people, denounces to the international human rights organizations the increasing FSLN repression, which is now generalized throughout our land. We advise all the peoples of the world that the suspension of the individual rights and guarantees of every Nicaraguan constitutes a crime by the FSLN members which will permit them, under the protection of their Russian and Cuban arms, to further increase the repression of the Nicaraguan people, who are beginning to lose their fear of the communist traitors.

We appeal to all of our people to be alert and to take any necessary precaution to prevent as much as possible from becoming an object of the wave of repression of the Marxist-Leninists. At the same time we remind our people that together with the family security measures which must be implemented at this time, there are also our duties and obligations toward Nicaragua. Therefore, each and every Nicaraguan must participate in anti-communist guerrilla activities, like the true revolutionaries that we are. We must organize clandestinely in every neighborhood, in every city and town of the country. This way we will manage to neutralize the enemy's repressive organizations and become a greater attack force in planned attacks which will bring the end of the mangy dog dictatorship.

At this time when the FSLN commanders are imposing martial law and a state of siege throughout the country, the iron unity of all revolutionary and democratic Nicaraguans is essential. Let us remember that a united people will never be vanquished. If we managed to defeat the Somoza dictatorship in the past, the people will also manage to defeat the FSLN communists.

Our mission: to liberate Nicaragua.

Our watchword: the indissoluble unity of the Nicaraguan people.

CSO: 3010/1093

REBELS REPORT ON FSLN RIFT

PA171520 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT
15 Mar 82

[Text] Nicaraguan brothers: Radio 15 September has received many reports regarding top-level FSLN leaders, especially at the national directorate level. Our contacts and liaison units throughout our country, together with our intelligence units that have infiltrated various organizations and agencies, for example the army, militia, ministries and Sandinist defense committees, have given us very important information regarding the critical situation the Marxist-Leninists are now facing. This disastrous situation is leading the frontists to serious consequences: the inevitable and imminent collapse of the repressive [word indistinct] of the communist regime.

Nicaraguans: Radio 15 September, the voice of a people who are suffering but who are determined to be free, informs all our brothers of the decay and discontent within the FSLN regime and its national directorate. We inform you that the covert armed insurrection that the entire Nicaraguan people are aiming daily against the genocidal hordes of the FSLN, in mountains and villages, in valleys and gullies, have the top mangy dog-Marxist leaders in such a state of uncertainty that there are divisions in the national directorate. In other words, there are great discrepancies among the FSLN leaders, who make up the three communist trends: the tertiary faction, the GPP [prolonged people's war] and the proletariat. These three factions have had several clashes at the national directorate level regarding direction, operation and leadership. Our intelligence services have also informed us that the nine mangy dogs ruling our country today have had contradictions and differences during their meetings.

There is no end to these differences, because the nine puppets serving Castro-Sovietism are alarmed over the rising ineffectiveness of all their criminal and genocidal actions and programs aimed against the people. There is disorder and confusion. The FSLN leaders have been forced to purge the ranks of their leadership at the national directorate level. The result has been distrust, apathy and rejection among them.

Our intelligence service has also informed us that the nine leaders of the national directorate of the armed party in power have agreed to maintain this image, because the divisionism has created desertions, mainly among officers in the army and the militia. Soldiers and militia members are asking to be transferred to garrisons and posts with larger contingents, especially to Managua, leaving the rural garrisons in the hands of Cubans and foreigners. These are mercenaries who, together with the genocidal hordes of the FSLN and the Ministry of Interior, sally forth to massacre our people.

The agents we have infiltrated report that Cubans are conducting genocidal actions in the Indian communities on our Atlantic coast. They also report that Cubans are drafting the criminal plans which are later carried out throughout the country. These orders are approved by Tomas Borge Martinez.

Tomas Borge Martinez is holding the unstable FSLN together. On several occasions there have been serious rifts among the nine FSLN leaders. They have had serious disagreements and suffered drastic rifts. These differences have resulted in the purge of Bayardo Arce Castano, and Tomas Borge's harsh criticism of Carlos Nunez Tellez.

Tomas Borge, together with the two Ortega Saavedra brothers, Humberto and Daniel, makes the decisions. They are the only three who decide on the actions and programs being carried out against the Nicaraguan people. Luis Carrion Cruz, who is taking care of his family's economic interests and their large investments, does whatever Tomas Borge and the Ortega Saavedra brothers tell him. Victor Tirado Lopez serves as liaison between the FSLN criminal directorate and idiot Savant Jose Lopez Portillo, who is symbol of demagoguery. Tirado also serves as a mere peacekeeper in the absolute imbalance which the FSLN national directorate is experiencing.

Bayardo Arce Castano, the Marxist ideologist who is now being abandoned by the Marxist-Leninist directorate, is involved in great internal conflicts which have resulted in his purge.

Jaime Wheelock Roman, like Luis Carrion Cruz, is looking after his family's interests and therefore obeys the orders of the Ortega Saavedra brothers and Tomas Borge Martinez.

Carlos Nunez Tellez is the only one on the national directorate who backs Bayardo Arce Castano. Nunez Tellez is therefore viewed with suspicion. His statements have no value or backing, because he does not completely agree with Tomas Borge Martinez' position in the State Council.

Henry Ruiz, the Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua [as heard] planning Minister and member of the FSLN State Committee, looks after the interests of Soviet imperialism in our country, because the Soviets clothed, fed and indoctrinated

him. From the Planning Ministry he counts the profits, which are then sent to the USSR. He is the only one who can veto the decisions made by Tomas Borge and the Ortega Saavedra brothers, because his Soviet masters' interests are preeminent. They do not care the least about the sufferings of the Nicaraguan people.

In view of this alarming disorganization and discontent among the nine leaders of the FSLN, there is inevitable unrest among army officers, because they do not know who is really in command. There have already been cases of officers not obeying the criminal orders to massacre the people. These orders have to be carried out by Cubans and members of the ministry of terror as well as the most bloodthirsty soldiers of the popular army. The result is a wave of desertions among soldiers and militiamen, who refuse to carry out those genocidal activities. They give various reasons for their desertion. Many of them leave the FSLN hordes and come to increase the ranks of the freedom commandos of the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces, who are struggling in these mountains to overthrow communism, with the help of God and patriotism.

Nicaraguans, the FSLN is crumbling. They are surrendering to the powerful forces of a people who are determined to be free. These new advances forced the Marxist-Leninists to change their meetings from nighttime at the Interior Ministry. They now meet in the mornings at the invitation of Tomas Borge Martinez at the national directorate level and the meetings are labeled secret. These meetings merely involve insults and argument and have even led to death threats among the Marxist leaders.

According to reports from our intelligence service this instability has even led mangy-dog commanders to leave the meetings at the Interior Ministry in a rage. Tomas Borge himself has ordered--listen to this--he has ordered the terrorist Lenin Cerna to carry out intelligence tasks among the FSLN commanders because of the differences among the three tendencies that make up the national directorate at the armed frontist party; the GPP, the proletariat and the tertiary.

In view of this obvious disaster, disorganization, and lack of conformity in the national directorate, Tomas Borge has given higher salaries, more privileges and bonuses to the officers and noncommissioned officers to prevent the FSLN officers corps from crumbling.

Today the FSLN is faced with desertions and general lack of discipline among EPS soldiers and militiamen, and has ordered strict compliance with the internal regulations of those repressive bodies of the dictatorship.

Radio 15 September, official voice of the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces [FDN], makes this fraternal call to the soldiers of the EPS and the militiamen who are determined to become part of our struggle for liberation. The FDN opens its arms to all our brothers so that together we can fight to death those who today are brandishing the hammer and sickle, killing and mutilating our people.

With God and patriotism we will overthrow communism.

CSO: 3010/1093

BRIEFS

USSR AID TO GOVERNMENT--The USSR continues cooperating with our revolutionary government in the task of giving the best possible training to our young workers. To that effect the USSR has announced the shipment of equipment, shops, and highly trained personnel for three professional training centers scheduled to open in Nicaragua next year. These centers include an energy technology school in Managua, a polytechnical institute in Leon and an agricultural institute in Cebaco. The USSR will also offer technical cooperation in the creation of two branches of existing centers for training highly qualified technicians in automobile transportation and telephone communications. The USSR will also send equipment for the manufacture of cabinets, laboratories and shops, in addition to training personnel for these installations. Meanwhile, hundreds of Nicaraguan professionals and teachers are receiving special training in the USSR. [Text] [PA162210 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Mar 82]

TRANSMISSION SUSPENDED--Radio 15 September, official spokesman of the Nicaraguan democratic force, reports to the people, that for security reasons, this radio station, the voice of a people determined to be free, was forced to suspend its transmissions on Monday night, 15 March and on Tuesday morning, 16 March. This radio station's intelligence services reported on the morning of 15 March, that genocidal troops of the Marxist-Leninist dictatorship were conducting encirclement operations, following the damage to two bridges of tactical and strategic importance to the dictatorship, carried out by commandos of the Nicaraguan democratic force. For this reason, the personnel of Radio 15 September decided to move the station's equipment to a safer zone. This was the reason we were not on the air as usual on the days we mentioned. Radio 15 September is back on the air today, with a firm belief in our historic responsibility to the Nicaraguan people and in our nationalist and revolutionary ideals. We are back on the air to carry the message of freedom and love for God and the fatherland, to our people, who today are humiliated by the enslaving boot of the hammer and sickle. [Text] [PA171446 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT 17 Mar 82]

CRUSADE AGAINST FSLN--The FDN and its commands of patriotic fighters report to the Nicaraguan people that on 14 March, as a result of our actions in Ocotal and Somotillo, a new crusade started to restore sovereignty to our country and to again light the torch of freedom, which was originally borne by our forefathers in their struggle for independence. Today is the beginning of our reply to the distressed call of our people, who are disappointed and suffer the burden of a new sinister tyranny, imposed this time by Castro-Leninist traitors of the so-called National Directorate of the FSLN, who have turned our country over to atheist communism and have violated Sandino's name through their genocide and torture. Today was the beginning of the new crusade with these new acts of patriotism and dedication. We have risen in arms to restore the revolution to our people. This crusade will spread, embracing all true Nicaraguans and destroying all those puppets who dance to the tune of their foreign masters. Nicaraguans: Today is the zero hour of the true revolution. Nicaragua is for Nicaraguans. Long live free and independent Nicaragua! Long live the Nicaraguan democratic revolution! [Text] [PA170410 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT 17 Mar 82]

NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S.--Tokyo--The Nicaraguan Embassy said here today that Nicaragua is prepared to begin negotiations with Washington on the basis of the five-point peace proposal announced by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on Monday in order to improve bilateral relations. During a telephone conversation with AFP, the Nicaraguan Embassy spokesman said the negotiations should also take account of another five-point proposal which the Sandinist revolutionary forces put forth in February. [Text] [PA181333 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 82]

CSO: 3010/1093

PEOPLE'S PARTY HOLDS SIXTH PARTY CONGRESS

PA131600 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Mar 82 p 4

[Text] The People's Party Central Committee held a plenary meeting in Panama City on 6-7 March. It was agreed during the sixth party congress that the discussion topic would be the "propaganda system." The meeting of the top Panamanian communist leaders and the presentation of a document issued by the Political Bureau under general secretary companero Ruben Dario Souza was a very important, conscientious and investigative debate. The members discussed the need to overcome propaganda and agitation by increasing the members' ideological level; reeducating the cadres--because there are new and growing needs for a party of masses closely linked with the need to connect Marxist-Leninist theory with the social movement of the Panamanian masses so that, with the democratic and anti-imperialist movements, the current process will expand--eliminating the colonialist stakes before the year 2000; and setting a precedent for socioeconomic transformations that will establish the bases for a socialist system in Panama. The resolution adopted at the plenary session mainly specifies that propaganda must be carried out within a system in which all its parts or components--theory, propaganda, agitation--are coordinated. In order to achieve this, they must create an ideologic front apparatus that should be directly oriented by the propaganda department. The plenary of the people's party also issued a statement "on the changes in the national guard." It reads in part: "From the statements made by the government and national guard authorities, we understand that the institutional changes in that armed corps are meant to strengthen and continue the Torrijist process with a political and moral reinforcement of one of its most decisive institutions." They also issued another resolution condemning Reagan's plan for Central America and the Caribbean because of its demagogic and interventionist essence against our people's hopes for national liberation. In the same manner, the plenary approved two resolutions: one opposes arms stockpiling and supports the peace struggle, noting the USSR's outstanding role; the second resolution expresses solidarity with the Polish Government, which has taken measures in order to solve the problems that socialist Poland faces.

One of the crowning moments of the meeting was the renewal of the Central Committee identification cards.

The meeting adjourned with a summary of the events by the secretary general.

CSO: 3010/1098

COMMUNITY LEADERS COMMENT ON REAGAN PLAN

PA150326 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Mar 82 pp A-1, D-14

[Article by Emilio Sinclair]

[Excerpts] Although leaders of both the public and private sectors have pondered U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plan, so far none of them has taken the initiative to join efforts to seek the desired objective.

The Reagan plan, known as the Caribbean basin initiative, was presented by the U.S. President to the OAS on 24 February. On that occasion, the U.S. President said that "at present, more than ever, the creative and humanitarian people of the Americas have the opportunity to join together to overcome injustice, hatred and oppression and to build a better life for all of the America."

Other voices which were raised to comment on the Caribbean basin initiative were those of Dominador B. Bazan, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture; Dulcidio Gonzalez, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP); and Col Ruben Dario Paredes, commander of the national guard.

Bazan was the first private enterprise leader to comment on the subject. On 12 March, Bazan said: "The United States has taken the first step; it is now up to us."

Bazan added that the United States has established a new policy with regard to the Caribbean basin, a circumstance which has won the support of countries that "recently opposed President Reagan's efforts toward this part of the world."

Through its President Dulcidio Gonzalez, the CONEP addressed President Reagan saying that "it is highly significant, in addition to surprising, that for the first time a president of the United States of America should state that in the establishment of freedom and independence, the peoples of this hemisphere are one."

Alberto Vallarino, president of the Panamanian Industrialists Union (SIP), told this newspaper yesterday with respect to the Reagan plan that "there is a very great risk that President Reagan's policy may promote the creation of governments like that of Paraguay."

Vallarino added: "There must be a balance between the need for political stability and the need to allow all sectors to participate in the administration of the country."

Vallarino added that "the success of the nonreciprocal preferential treatment to promote Panamanian exports depends to a great extent on internal factors that permit the production of quality products at competitive prices."

He added: "It is necessary to have competitive tariffs for electrical energy, as well as ports that give speedy service, are well-equipped and have productive personnel."

In his letter to President Reagan, Gonzalez said: "...We agree that today, more than ever, it is necessary for us all to work together and for each of us to contribute the best of his intelligence and a great quota of unselfishness in order that together we may give form and viability to your ideas and convert them into a true bond that unites all the men of this continent."

CSO: 3010/1098

ROYO, VIEIRA ISSUE JOINT DECLARATION

PA180421 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Mar 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] In a joint statement signed yesterday Aristides Royo and Commander Joao Bernardo Vieira, presidents of Panama and Guinea-Bissau, agreed that Panama will give the Guinea-Bissau Government technical and agricultural assistance to promote and implement cooperation programs in agriculture, in pursuit of economic and social development objectives.

Commander Vieira, who was in Panama on a 2-day official visit, formally invited the Panamanian president to visit his country. President Royo accepted the invitation, the date of the visit to be confirmed later by mutual agreement through diplomatic channels.

In their statements, the two heads of state said that cooperation among countries is a factor of primary importance in the establishment of the new international economic order.

Thus they also agreed on the need to establish a more just economic relations between developed and developing countries.

On the subject of international politics, they agreed that the increasing deterioration in international relations is a matter of concern and that the obvious collapse of detente is a serious threat to peace and world stability, and even to the survival of humankind.

On the subject of detente, the Panamanian and Guinea-Bissau heads of state agreed to encourage efforts to achieve a reduction in tension and to oppose foreign interference and intervention in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

They also pronounced themselves in favor of the total eradication of colonialism, hegemony, racism and racial discrimination, in all of their forms and manifestations, in those regions.

On the implementation of the Panama Canal treaties, the two national leaders agreed that the end of the administration of justice by the United States and of U.S. police services and U.S. jails in a portion of Panama's territory is a reason for rejoicing by the people and government of Panama, as well as by all peace-loving nations.

They said that "good faith in carrying out the Torrijos-Carter treaties and their correct interpretation is of great importance for world peace."

The two heads of state also spoke about matters related to the resolutions and decisions on Namibia approved by the United Nations, the OAU and the nonaligned movement. They condemned the acts of aggression against Angola by the South African regime, while voicing their approval of the admission of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic into the OAU. They also condemned the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries and said they would put forward all of their efforts to achieve, within the UN system, the acceptance of an international agreement banning mercenary activities.

CSO: 3010/1098

CANAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO BE ASSUMED

PA160210 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Mar 82 pp 1, 8A

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera told MATUTINO that Panama "is prepared to assume all judicial and law enforcement functions as of 1 April and thus reaffirm its sovereignty over the whole country."

Cabrera said that this historic date demonstrates the dynamic character of the Torrijos-Carter treaty as an instrument of national liberation and as a tool for dismantling the colonial enclave that the canal zone had been.

He explained that as of 1 April the responsibility that the United States still has for the administration of justice in the canal area will finally come to an end.

The deputy foreign minister noted that no Panamanian has been subjected to the indignity of being judged by a foreign court on Panamanian territory since 1 October 1979.

Cabrera declared that beginning 1 April, no Panamanian or foreigner under Panamanian jurisdiction will be subjected to the authority of non-Panamanian courts within our own territory.

Furthermore, he noted as another historic event the final cessation of the law enforcement functions carried out by the Panama Canal Commission. He said that the Panamanian national guard will be exclusively responsible for law enforcement throughout the national territory.

Finally, the U.S. right to maintain and operate jails in Panama will terminate on 1 April. He added that Panama already assumed responsibility for penal institutions on 1 January 1981, when the national guard took over the Gamboa penitentiary and turned it into a corrections [rehabilitacion] center.

Since 1 October 1979, Panama has only had jurisdiction in civil suits and cases involving maritime law within the canal area.

CSO: 3010/1098

ROYO ANNOUNCES ACCORD WITH U.S. ON 13TH-MONTH PAYMENT

PA161555 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Mar 82 pp 1, 8-A

[Excerpt] Some 4,000 canal commission and U.S. armed forces civilian workers will benefit from a bilateral agreement between Panama and the United States, that will solve the problem of the payment of fees to the social security and refunding of the illegal deductions made for the second payment of the 13th month salary.

This was announced yesterday by President Aristides Royo during a cabinet meeting which ended a week of work by his cabinet in the province of Colon.

"As a result of the agreement," Royo explained, "the workers will have the right to financial coverage for social security benefits."

The agreement will become effective this year, 1982, and MATUTINO learned that since there are overdue fees for 1980 and 1981 from the Panama Canal Commission as well as in the armed forces they must, on their own, negotiate these overdue payments with the Panama social security.

Yesterday Local 907 sources reacted favorably to the news and praised the efforts made by the government and the social security to achieve this important benefit.

The source indicated that the deductions made by the United States amount to more than \$1.5 million and many a home will be made happy with this refund.

When the agreement goes into effect, the workers will have the right to social security retirement and old age pensions, the same as every Panamanian under the social security law. "In other words, we will have full jurisdiction in our territory in matters of health," the Panamanian president said.

In February of this year, Panama canal workers demonstrated in front of the Foreign Ministry as a pressure tactic to gain support for their claims. Early in this week they talked to Foreign Minister Jorge Illueca, who told them that he was expecting a positive reply from the U.S. Government by the end of the week.

CSO: 3010/1098

BRIEFS

BUSINESS-GUARD ALLIANCE--In the past few days there was a meeting between the national guard staff and representatives of the private sector. Both sides went to that meeting hoping to form an alliance similar to the one that has caused and unleashed civil wars in several Central American countries, especially in El Salvador where the privileged ones have delegated the political leadership and the task of safeguarding their selfish interests on the colonels for the purpose of perpetuating merciless exploitation and social injustices. The fact that, in Panama, the colonels--who hypocritically advocate some kind of populism and nationalism--have bribed labor and self-styled leftist student leaders characterized by their venality for the purpose of following the international news media by creating an illusion of social peace, should not blind us to the existing explosive situation. The private sector, like the labor movement and the students, must demand an authentic and radical democratization in all the aspects of the national life and the real and definite return of the national guard to its barracks and to the functions proper of such an institution. With much concern, we have also noted the elementary anticommunism that certain sectors hysterically shout. This can only lead to blind, sterile and highly dangerous witch-hunting. Communism has to have the rug pulled out from under it by increasing the national wealth and distributing it in an equitable manner among its creators, by efficiently administering the government, and by respecting the right of all the groups and ideological tendencies to participate in a pure political process that will lead to the new Panama of which all Panama's good sons and daughters dream. [Text] [PA170447 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Mar 82 p 1A]

CSO: 3010/1098

BRIEFS

ELECTION ANNOUNCED--Castries, St Lucia, 13 Mar (CANA)--St Lucians will go to the polls on May 3 to elect a new government. The date for general elections was announced by Prime Minister Michael Pilgrim, who said that his government is making all arrangements for the preparation of a budget which will be presented by a new government shortly after elections. The 1982 budget should have been presented in April. According to Pilgrim, the writ will be issued by the governor general to each of the 17 constituencies on April 6, with nomination day fixed for April 20. Members of the St Lucia police force will go to the polls on April 30. According to law, the revised and supplementary lists must be published by March 31. The electoral office announced that the publication of the revised list of electors will start on Sunday in Gros Islet, a village north of the capital. It said the supplementary list of voters will be posted by March 19, adding that all work on screens, ballot boxes and lamps had been completed and the electoral department would be ready to hold elections from the first week in April. [Text] [FL132355 Bridgetown CANA in English 2343 GMT 13 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1055

BRIEFS

COUP LEADER DEAD--Paramaribo, Suriname, 16 Mar(CANA)--Suriname's military rulers today said a chemistry professor who was a ringleader of Thursday's attempted coup might have committed suicide. Professor Bal Omroewsingh, a lecturer at the Suriname medical school, was poisoned, an official statement said. The military quoted the state pathologist, Dr Martinez Vrede, as saying that endrin, an insecticide, was found in his stomach. Yesterday the professor was found dead in Nickerie, west Suriname, the area which he represented in the 1978-80 parliament. The discovery was made after the military had issued an order for his arrest and the Hindustani Party, of which he was a member, had called on him to surrender. [Text] [FL161938
Bridgetown CANA in English 1933 GMT 16 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1055

BRIEFS

AMMONIA PRODUCTION--Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 17 Mar (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago is currently among the leading exporters of liquified ammonia and about the fifth largest producers of ammonia in the world, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Patrick Manning has said here. At a press briefing following a tour of Federation Chemicals and Tringen at Point Lisas in central Trinidad, the minister listed the production as follows: Braun ammonia plant--750 metric tons a day and Tringen 1,270 short tons a day. The first of two (?fertilizer) plants is now on stream with a capacity of 1,150 metric tons a day, the second plant is being started (also, 1,150 metric tons a day) giving a total of 4,300 tons per day. Mr Manning stated that while Fedchem was unprofitable in 1981, and was unlikely to be profitable in 1982, "Tringen, because of its peculiar marketing arrangements with W. R. Grace, cannot lose money." Trinidad Nitrogen Company (Tringen) is owned jointly by the government and W. R. Grace. [Text] [FL171737 Bridgetown CANA in English 1551 GMT 17 Mar 82]

CSO: 3025/1055

REDUCTION IN STATE BUDGET TO ELIMINATE DEFICIT ANNOUNCED

PY121835 Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Mar (AFP)--A significant reduction in the Uruguayan state budget in order to eliminate the fiscal deficit was officially announced today.

The budget deficit has been repeatedly cited by the producers and businessmen as one of the determining factors of the sharp recession here.

Within an overall rectification plan, mention was made of the elimination of positions in ministries, government offices and municipalities, as well as a reduction by about \$85 million in expenditures.

Furthermore, the assets of state organs will be reduced by 20 percent and unproductive government enterprises will be privatized or sold.

In brief remarks to the press after announcing the bare facts of the plan, the economy minister emphasized that the measures are all healthy, and he confessed that they would probably remain in force indefinitely in the country in order to [word indistinct] an efficient state apparatus that will be of adequate size.

The minister added that within this spirit "and so that it will not simply be a temporary solution, it has been planned to draw up a zero-based budget as if the state apparatus had only recently been set up."

This year the reserves of the Central Bank have diminished by almost \$200 million, or 23.4 percent compared with the end of 1981. "This decline "is due to the fiscal problems last year, showing that one cannot play around with the Central Bank's funds," the Central Bank president said today.

The bank president placed the fiscal difficulties which required the issuance of currency without backing as occurring in November and December 1981.

In contrast, he was cautious about a rapid change in the state of the reserves since, he said "it will have to be seen what happens with the demand for money" although he assured that there would not be another issuance of currency.

The Central Bank president also reiterated that there would be no devaluation and that the interest rates will come down, two points which have been fundamental in the criticism of the liberal economic policy of the government.

The businessmen and the government see themselves as confronting the truth, the president said, since in other times there was recourse to inflation which obscured the real situation.

However, he concluded, "these days, with the current situation of the world market, it is very difficult to generate [as received] inflation and it will be very low (in Uruguay), a historically low rate."

The interest rates currently fluctuate around 45 percent, and the projected cost of living for 1982, judging from the increase in the first 2 months, will rise by 9.93 percent.

CSO: 3010/1115

ARISMENDI ATTACKS U.S. INTERFERENCE IN LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Moscow LATINSKAYA AMERIKA in Russian No 1, Jan 82 pp 5-9

[Article by Rodney Arismendi: "The Struggle for Peace Is the Principal Task of the Present Day"]

[Text] /The present material was prepared on the basis of the speech delivered by Rodney Arismendi, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Uruguay CC at the meeting of the representatives of the central press organs of the communist and workers' parties, which was held in Moscow during the summer of 1981./ [in boldface/

Slightly more than 40 years have passed since the beginning of Hitler's aggression against the Soviet Union. By this time German imperialism had conquered practically all of Europe and was nurturing plans for establishing world domination. The defeat of Nazism, Italian Fascism, and Japanese imperialism brought about colossal changes on all continents. The shift in the balance of power within the international arena has created objective conditions for ensuring a lasting peace. Flowing into a unified stream have been the Soviet Union's international activity, socialist revolutions in a number of countries, the disintegration of the colonial system and the rise of new independent states, the strengthening of the role of the working class, and the recognition by millions of the Earth's people of the necessity of defending peace and carrying out democratic, anti-imperialist, and socialist changes.

However, even at the time when battles were thundering on the fields of Europe and Asia, American imperialism was declaring its claims to world supremacy, its striving to hold back the forward movement of socialism, and to block social progress, and after a certain length of time had elapsed following the end of World War II, it unleashed the "Cold War." The beginning of this next "crusade," aimed at creating a new armed confrontation and enslavement of peoples, was a dreadful tragedy: Japanese imperialism had already been practically driven to its knees, when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were subjected to atomic bombing. The following became the distinguishing traits of the "Cold War": nuclear blackmail, local wars, balancing on the brink of a precipice, imperialist intervention into the affairs of a whole series of countries. Feverishly whipping up the arms race and concluding new military treaties, imperialism attempted to direct international relations into the channel necessary to it. However, the path chosen by U.S. imperialism led to the

failure of its intentions. It did not succeed in altering the balance of power in the world, and it suffered a series of crushing defeats.

The upsurge of the world revolutionary movement, the victories of the peoples of Vietnam, Cuba, and other countries in combination with the consistent peace-loving policy of the USSR and the states of the socialist camp, as well as the growing aspirations of peoples for peace, facilitated the development of a relaxation of international tension and the creation of circumstances favorable for a dialog. The highest achievement on this path was the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It became clear even to the leaders of the capitalist countries that the arms race and particularly the production of nuclear weapons are leading to a devastating catastrophe, the sole alternative to which can be military and political detente. The striving to avert war and preserve mankind from utter destruction was manifested in the signing of the OSV /SALT/ Treaties and the adoption of other measures.

Nevertheless, after a certain amount of time U.S. imperialism began an open offensive against detente, striving again to bring the world to the brink of a precipice. After Reagan's accession to the White House the international situation became more complicated. Members of the ruling circles of the United States in irresponsible and frenzied speeches, as well as by practical deeds, began to assert their claims to world leadership, an attempt to impose their own viewpoint on the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, and to threaten the peoples who are proceeding along the path of progress with military intervention, without excluding herein even the possibilities of using nuclear weapons. The arms race has become the keystone of their program. The production of the neutron bomb and the deployment of missiles in Europe; the incitement of a war psychosis in the Near East and support of the brazen-faced adventures of Israel's ruling circles; aid to the South African racists, who have not ceased their aggressive acts against Angola and Mozambique, and who have occupied Namibia; the playing of the "Chinese card" and the attempt to form an alliance with Tokyo and Beijing; threats to the people of Vietnam and the other peoples of Indo-China, along with the declarations of plans to attack Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada; interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador and Guatemala and the protection of fascist dictatorships and other tyrannical regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean Basin--all these are links of a single chain.

These and other facts have visibly disclosed the essence of American imperialism's global policy. Embodying the ideology of the most aggressive and irrational circles of the United States, this line of political blackmail not only leads to an exacerbation of the international situation but, above all, conveys a threat to the existence of mankind. And we must realize this. Such actions flow from the very nature of imperialism and are conditioned by the concrete political steps of its most aggressive and shameless representatives. Topical again in this connection are the words uttered by Bertrand Russell and Einstein in 1945, on the eve of the atomic bombing of the Japanese cities: "If the danger is understood, there is hope of averting it. We say this as the representatives of a race whose existence is threatened by danger."

We are far from any kind of fatalism. We know that the balance of power in the international arena, which has allowed us to assert that war has ceased to be

... inevitable, is today considerably more favorable for the cause of peace than it was during the years of the "Cold War." The present-day balance of power constitutes the material foundation--in its political, ideological, and military expression--of the actions of progressive mankind, directed at disrupting the intentions of the irrational imperialists. Relying on this foundation, the proposals made by Comrade Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress, proposals which have been taken up by the party congresses of other socialist countries, called in a specific, realistic, and constructive form, for a defense of detente and a dispelling of the specter of nuclear catastrophe. It was precisely for this reason that they have found such a profound understanding among the peoples of the world, as well as among many governments, political and religious leaders.

The threat of war can be eliminated. But in order to do this, it is necessary to have the understanding and militant solidarity of all the democratically inclined political forces. What we need, in the first place, is the unity of the three main revolutionary forces of our epoch, and especially that of the communist and workers' parties, the detachments of the national-liberation movement, and all progressive forces. In this connection, particular importance attaches to the role played by the USSR and other socialist countries--the foremost detachment in the struggle to save mankind. In this situation there is no place for any sort of third position, presenting itself as such under the pretext that the USSR and the United States are, so to speak, super-powers. The program of peace which was set forth by the 26th CPSU Congress, can and ought to find support among the broadest strata of the population, regardless of their social and ideological bents. At the same time the positions of the Reagan government must be exposed as being aimed at unleashing a new war, intensifying imperialist intervention in the affairs of all peoples, and a return to the great-power dream of the so-called "American century," which warmed the hearts of the heralds of U.S. monopolies during the days of their alleged nuclear supremacy.

The struggle for peace is a vitally important question for the democratic and socialist governments and peoples of Latin America. The official representatives of Washington--Reagan himself and, following him, Haig, Weinberger, and others--have asserted their intention of using Latin America and the Caribbean Basin as a point for carrying out their far-ranging military plans. The open threats to invade Cuba and Nicaragua, conspiracy against Grenada, sending the "Green Berets" to El Salvador and supplying weapons to the junta which is ruling there, support of the human-hating tyranny in Guatemala, violating the Panama Canal treaties and provocative pressure on the government of Panama, the unambiguous intentions with regard to Panama, the hypocritical diplomatic ruses and military manoeuvres in the regions of Central America, in Mexico, undertaken with the goal of exerting pressure on that country, and, among other things, testifies to the presence in the United States of plans which threaten the existence of the democratic governments in the countries of the Caribbean Basin. To this ought to be added the by-no-means hidden aid being rendered to the fascist regimes and other tyrannies which the United States has managed to put into power in several Latin American countries.

The Reagan government asserts directly to the peoples of our continent that today it is not a matter of protecting human rights but rather of the struggle against terrorism. Moreover, just as Hitler did with regard to the Resistance Movement in European countries, the United States designates as terrorism our peoples'

struggle for democracy, economic and political independence, and social progress. By means of the fig-leaf of the "struggle against terrorism" U.S. imperialism, the Pentagon and the CIA, publicly exposed in their interventionism, in organizing bloody coups d'etat, attempts on the lives and actual murders of patriots and democratic figures in Latin America, are attempting to conceal the genuine essence of their policies. The sharpness of their attacks is aimed at the glorious Cuban Revolution, at Nicaragua, which has achieved its liberty, and at all the liberation movements of the continent. By having recourse not only to pressure but also to military interference and conspiracies, the leading imperialist power has planned to alter the political panorama of Latin America, where forces have been awakened which are striving for political and economic independence.

Today the United States--the foremost plunderer of the continent's riches, the organizer of hundreds of instances of interference into the affairs of the Latin American countries--under the pressure of the growing patriotic and democratic movement of our peoples is losing its position of political domination on this continent. The culmination of this crisis was the Cuban Revolution, which raised the banner of socialism over our hemisphere. The failure of the blockade against the Cuban state and the attempts at intervention in its affairs served as a powerful impetus for the liberation struggle and the opposition to American domination.

The victory of the Revolution in Nicaragua marked the beginning of a new stage in the struggle for liberty; it sharpened the question of the need to put an end to fascism and the tyrannies which are in the service of the dollar, and it has become a witness to the new conditions which have formed on a continent having become part of the movement. An indication of the depth of the liberation processes is the heroic struggle by the people of El Salvador, solidarity with which has been expressed by all of progressive mankind. The growth of the workers' and popular movement, the domestic and foreign isolation of the dictatorships of Uruguay, Chile, and other countries, the merger into one multi-faceted stream of peoples, democratic governments, and revolutionary currents visibly demonstrate the power and potentials of those forces in Latin America which today are opposing the impudence of the imperialist dictates, as well as the fascistic and tyrannical regimes which are serving imperialism. National-reformist parties and governments, those in the service of the Catholic Church and members of other religions, political leaders and forces belonging to the Socialist International, and even patriotically minded members of the military have found a common language with the communist and workers' parties and other revolutionary detachments, when it is a matter of defending liberty, national independence, and social progress.

Reagan's policy constitutes an extreme danger for our peoples, and we must distinctly understand this in order to oppose it with the necessary firmness and clarity of our political line, without slipping into fatalism but also avoiding a naive optimism. In the historical struggle of our peoples for democracy, independence, and socialism we must put forth our broad political unity today as never before in the past as a counter-weight to the fascism and crude intervention of the United States in affairs which are none of its business. Solidarity with the peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada, support of El Salvador and Guatemala, the isolation and overthrow of fascist dictatorships and other tyrannical regimes must be tightly interwoven with the process of firming up the democratic governments and peoples in the struggle for liberty and political and economic independence.

All this is already occurring today, and this struggle is merging into the unified, mighty stream of international actions in defense of peace and the relaxation of tension.

In the final analysis, Reagan's policy is doomed to failure. But only the unity and firm resolve of the broadest patriotic and democratic forces of the continent can constitute a guarantee of our common victory over imperialism. On the historical level the destinies of the new struggle for independence by the peoples of Latin America are inseparable from the international activity of the USSR and other socialist countries, which comprise a bulwark of peace, national liberation, democracy, and socialism.

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CSO: 1807/56

BRIEFS

TROOPS TO SINAI--Sixty Uruguayan soldiers are now traveling to Bogota to join Colombian troops that will participate in the multinational Sinai peace-making force. The troops commanded by Lt Col (Juan Carlos Grosso) will then continue their trip to Tel Aviv and then to the former Israeli base of (Eytam). They will be stationed in the demilitarized zone between Egypt and Israel. Reports from Bogota indicate that the Colombian Council of State has authorized Uruguayan troops on their way to the Sinai to make a stopover in Bogota. Colombian Defense Minister Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva had asked the Council of State whether it was possible for 60 Uruguayan soldiers to stay in the country for 16 hours. [Text] [PY181735 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Mar 82]

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April 1, 1982